Shepherds

JUNE, 1950

A Badge of Honor
FOR EVERY MEMBER
of Your Church

BISHOP EARL LEDDEN, SYRACUSE, N. Y., says

"That membership card is a most excellent idea. . . . A pastor certainly could make use of it. It could be issued at the end of church membership classes and to all who join. Indeed it might be used to promote the spirit of reconsecration on the part of those who have been members of the church for a long time but have not carried very definite evidence of that fact, either in their wallets or their lives.

PASTOR P. R. RUSSELL, DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENN., says

"We began by preparing and presenting a card to every active member. These were presented at a public service, advertised in advance and a congregation larger than usual was attracted. . . . Finding that all ages in the church appreciate their membership cards, we offer to replace any that are lost or misplaced."

This Membership Card is a folder of the same size as above. It is beautifully printed in three colors: black, red, and green. On the inside are both the baptismal vows and the membership vows, beneath which is a place for the member to sign his own name as a fresh reminder or a re-taking of the vows. The back side of the card is headed "My Personal Record" and contains lines for a member to write in the date and place of his baptism, the name of the baptizing minister, and the place where he first joined the church. $1.50 per 100.

Order Your Supply Today for New and Old Members

TIDINGS 1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 4, Tennessee

Convocation for Adult Teachers

A Methodist Convocation for teachers and presidents of adult church-school classes in the Southeastern Jurisdiction will be held June 24-27 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

Theme for the convocation is "Christian Teaching to Turn the Tide." Approximately 2,000 leaders are expected to attend. More information can be obtained from your Conference executive secretary or by writing the Adult Department, Board of Education, Box 871, Nashville 2, Tennessee.

SHEPHERDS

Vol. 4—No. 9 June, 1950

Geo. H. Jones, *Editor*
Henry Koestline, *Editorial Assistant*
D. E. Jackson, *Business Manager*

Subscription price, $1.50 per year. Churches may subscribe for their Membership and Evangelism Committee at the rate of seven subscriptions for $10.

Single copies, 15¢. Quantity orders of a single issue, as long as the supply lasts, 10¢ a copy.

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TIDINGS, 1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 4, Tennessee

Cover Photo: Louis C. Williams

Recreation means re-creation for those who plan wisely. Pastors can make vacations rich and fruitful for themselves by careful planning. No less important is the role pastors may play in making vacation time a fruitful experience in the lives of their people.

Make sure that your people do not take a vacation from God (they certainly do not expect God to take a vacation from them) by keeping spiritual life in vacation planning. Church Attendance and Daily Devotions can be a part of the vacation plans.

In the quietness of lake or mountain retreat or in the hurry and bustle of the great city there is always a place for God. Daily Devotions will make the vacation time more meaningful.

The Parish Cultivation Plan

Hundreds of churches in the United States and Canada make daily devotions a part of their regular ministry. In every home for which they have a responsibility these churches provide a daily ministry. Even to those who have become inactive in their church membership the church goes once every other month with a friendly concern for their spiritual well-being. For details of how churches use this plan and for information on how many churches make it completely self-supporting, write to THE UPPER ROOM.

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In your church you can increase the number of homes with family altars and give great encouragement to individual devotions by having a Family Altar Sunday. Many churches use a demonstration of how to have family devotions at the table as a method of showing how easy and effective family devotions are with the use of THE UPPER ROOM and the Bible. Family Altar Commitment Cards are available from THE UPPER ROOM without charge.

These Laymen Witness

Your people discover that laymen and laywomen can (and do) witness as they use the May-June number of THE UPPER ROOM. This number of THE UPPER ROOM offers an opportunity to make the lay witness more effective in your church. Be sure that you have plenty of copies on hand. This is an issue that you will want to provide for many individuals who will be impressed by the lay witness.

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Help for Your Ministry of Daily Devotions

To help keep the ministry of daily devotions before your people, THE UPPER ROOM provides various aids. Most of them are available without charge upon request.

POSTERS

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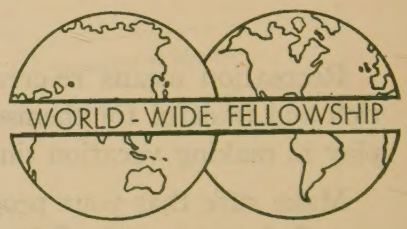

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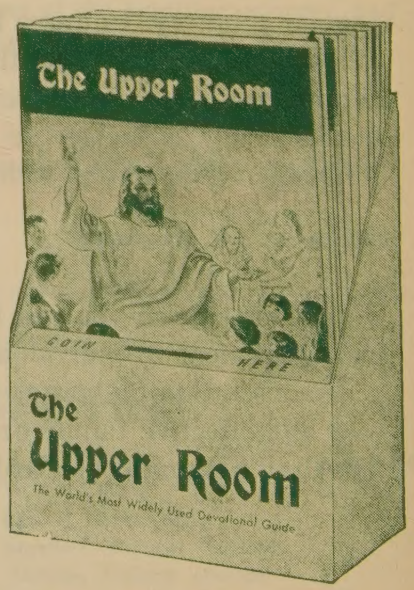

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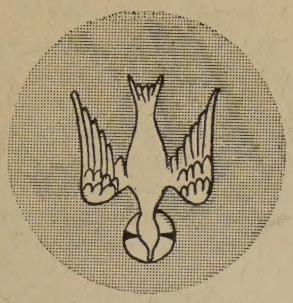


Day of *New* Power

—Let May 28 Be Another Pentecost—

PENTECOST is the Birthday of the Christian Church. It occurs fifty days after Easter. It was on this day that the Holy Spirit came into the hearts of the 120 waiting disciples in the upper room at Jerusalem. This experience brought to the early Christians the unshakable conviction that their Lord was not only alive, but actively present in the world. They realized His Presence and experienced His power. They became different on Pentecost and afterwards. Their fear was supplanted by boldness; doubt by faith; and impotence by power. Something happened. A living message was preached on the morning of this day by the man who only a short while before had denied his Lord. This preacher might have said what Latimer said to Ridley, "We shall this day light such a candle, by God's grace, as I trust, shall never be put out." Since that day the preaching of the evangel has had both a place and a power in the Church.

Preceded by Prayer

Too long the churches have neglected this anniversary which comes on Sunday, May 28, this year. It can be made one of the most significant days in the annual calendar.

It should not be forgotten by the modern church that the first Pentecost was preceded by the upper room with its ten days of prayer, anticipation and fellowship. During these ten days, "they emptied themselves of themselves that they might be filled with all the fullness of God." There was receptivity. They had turned aside as Christ requested.

Pentecost, Persons, and Power

The early Christians went out from their Pentecost to create new persons and build a better world. It was said of them that they "turned the world upside down." The power of Pentecost was not given for their own ecstatic enjoyment, but for witnessing "unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Pentecost is the prophecy of what the followers of Christ can be and do in any generation, when they give themselves up completely to His divine will. This power on the day of Pentecost was mediated, not through a program or an organization but through 120 individuals whose hearts God had touched.

The Holy Spirit and Pentecost are inseparably linked together. It was by the power of the Holy Spirit that the disciples spoke and it was in His power that they went forth to evangelize the nations. Jesus had put upon the disciples a superhuman task—the evangelization of the whole world. For this He gave them superhuman power—the power of the Holy Spirit. This divine Spirit moulded the early followers of Jesus into a united fellowship at Pentecost, and gave them an inner adequacy. This ancient fire which was kindled in the hearts of the early disciples is needed today on modern altars.

Ascension Day to Pentecost

The ten days preceding the first Pentecost was a time of prayer and fellowship. The period from Ascension Day, Thursday, May 18, to Pentecost, May 28, can be made a season of rich spiritual experience akin to that which was experienced by the early disciples in the upper room. Modern disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ need this during these difficult and confused days.

The following suggestions may be found helpful:

Many churches whose doors are not open for daily prayer ordinarily may want to make the church available during these ten days for all who desire to come in to pray.

Many local congregations may find it possible in rural areas, as well as in urban communities, to prepare for and hold a Preaching Mission. The ten days from Ascension Day (May 18) to Pentecost (May 28) would be an ideal period for a special series of night-by-night meetings. Such a Mission would not only quicken a congregation spiritually, but it would add new members to the body of Christ—the Church—and would make Pentecost a great evangelistic climax for a great year of Evangelism.

A daily prayer service held by some group at the church or in homes during the ten days would add to the meaning of the Pentecost observance.

Noonday services in a downtown church or theater are found to be of great value on the part of an increasing number of communities.

Some churches would find an "Every Member Visitation" of the membership of the church on the Sunday preceding Pentecost greatly worth while. Such visitation could be used to secure another Easter attendance for Pentecost Sunday. Rural and urban congregations alike would find this plan, if seriously followed, to be a way by which the empty pews can be filled.

There are many other special plans that pastors and churches can discover that will strengthen the congregation numerically and spiritually.

Evangelistic visitation might be done preceding Pentecost Sunday to good effect. Fishermen's Clubs and the Fellowships of Evangelism in churches should make a special effort this week to seek the unsought, to reach the unreached, and to go out after the least and the last in the Advance for Christ.

Pentecost Sunday

Also, there would be great value in the local broadcasting of a special message with appropriate music on Pentecost Sunday. The message might be entitled, "The Birthday of the Church." The radio can help preachers and churches to magnify this significant day.

Pentecost is the anniversary of the special Advent of the Holy Spirit. The day has a rich history and a significant meaning for Christians everywhere.

Since it is so great a day in the calendar of the Church, careful preparations should be made for its observance. The following are but a few suggestions:

Decorations—The sanctuary should be decorated with as much care and beauty as on Easter.

Music—The hymns and special music should be selected with great care. Choose hymns that exalt the church and tell of the Holy Spirit.

Sermon and Text—The preacher's messages this day should be related definitely to Pentecost.

Attendance—The laymen of the church, under the minister's direction, can help secure an "every member attendance" for the day.

The Early Church

Had an Effective Program of Evangelism

By O. A. Bowers, Pastor, Marvin Park Methodist Church, St. Louis, Missouri

HAVE we Methodists been gripped with the great passion of Jesus? Does the Evangelistic emphasis, now being made, give evidence that we are experiencing a great heart warming? Are we ready for a great stirring revival?

Christ's way of life is exceedingly practical, and it will work when it is really tried. It worked for John Wesley. It worked for Paul. It worked for the early Church. If we really try it *now* it will work for us. The spirit, the principles, and the methods of Jesus will work in any situation in any church, in any age.

Any church desiring to know the essentials in a great religious revival can find them in the Book of Acts, the second chapter. Here was a church that put Christ at the center of its life, and earnestly lived by His spirit and faithfully followed His teaching.

Every Member Present

"They were ALL with one accord—IN ONE PLACE."

They did not have the problem of vacant pews in that church. A like interest and Christ-centeredness in any church will fill that church to overflowing.

The average Protestant church today has about thirty-two per cent present at the Sunday church services. Where is the other sixty-eight per cent? Thirty-two per cent efficient! Sixty-eight inefficient!

A United and Harmonious Church

"They were ALL WITH ONE ACCORD in one place."

Happy is the church where the spirit of unanimity and accord prevails. Ghrist's great prayer for the oneness of His people had its answer in this church as it should have in every church.

This was not a temporary situation, for before Pentecost they were of one accord and after Pentecost they continued "daily with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house." New converts gravitate to the level of the spirit and conduct of the church with which they unite, and in this church "the multitude of them who believed were of one heart and of one soul."

Every Member a Spiritual Member

"Cloven tongues like as of fire sat upon EACH of them, and they were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost."

Christ had outlined to them the great and challenging task to go with the gospel to every creature. But however much they had seen and heard and believed and felt, they were not yet ready to go. They must "tarry" until they were "endued with power." Consequently that faithful group awaited that spiritual boon that was to be the right of every church of all time. The refining fires of the Holy Spirit swept over them, and through them, and with hearts aglow with a holy passion they proclaimed the flaming message of the wonders of God's saving grace through the risen Christ. That church was a spiritual church as every church must be.

Every Member a Witness

"This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we ALL ARE WITNESSES."

We may be prone to think that Peter's preaching at Pentecost won 3,000 converts to Christ in a day. Now the sermon *was* dynamic. It narrated facts, interpreted Scripture, preached Christ, and called upon people to repent. But it also declared that Peter himself and all the rest of the people were witnesses to Christ and for Christ. We sometimes forget about this witnessing. Before that great and indicting message was delivered, a faith- and spirit-filled church had been joyfully and ardently witnessing for Christ, proclaiming to the people the wonderful works of God. The power they had received was a witnessing power. In the power of the Spir Peter preached, and in the power the Spirit they witnessed.

The impassioned testimony of Chri tian laymen secured for the Apostle great hearing and contributed to h unprecedented success. Had the chur lacked spiritual passion and power a life, it is likely we would never ha heard of Peter's sermon.

Sustained spiritual power is nece sary both in the pulpit and the pe The same power that surges throu the soul and flames forth in the me sage of the minister must sur through the souls of the laymen a flame forth in warmhearted witnessi for Christ. It was so then, it must so now if we would win the multitud to Christ.

If the world is ever to be brou under the sway of Christ's soverei power, the whole Church must beco a mighty evangelizing spiritual for proclaiming the wonders of Chris saving gospel.

Acquainted with Christian Teaching

"They continued steadfastly in t Apostle's doctrine."

For three years the apostles h studied in the School of Christ. F three years they had sat at the f of the world's greatest Teacher a had learned of Him. He taught as having authority and not as the scrib He taught by precept and by examp He taught by illustration and by de onstration. Being taught they w commanded to go and teach othe They were to teach the things t Christ had taught them. Their doctr was the doctrine of Christ, and members of that early church w taught that doctrine. They studied knew it, practiced it.

The weakness of many profes Christians today is their ignorance Christ's teaching, and the tragedy that many fail to practice even w they do know.

A Fellowship Church

"They continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and FELLOWSHIP."

It was not a church disturbed and rent by factions as was the church at Corinth, or a lukewarm church as was the church at Laodicea; neither had it left its first love as did the church at Ephesus.

A warmhearted spirit of brotherhood and fellowship prevailed. No cliques, no factions, no one promoting himself at the expense of another, no one cold-shouldering another, but all enjoying a warm fellowship in Christ! They were bound together in Christian fellowship and love.

A Praying Church

"They continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship . . . AND IN PRAYERS."

In the upper room they prayed UNTIL the fires of Pentecost flamed in their souls, and after Pentecost they kept the flames kindled by continuing steadfast in prayer.

A prayer service was held in the Temple during this great spiritual awakening in Jerusalem. About three o'clock in the afternoon Peter and John went up to attend that prayer service. Doubtless a great number of the followers of Jesus, and of the new converts, were there. When Peter healed the lame man at the Gate Beautiful in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, with an overflowing joy, the lame man rushed into the Temple, into the midst of that prayer service, and gave a ringing testimony of what Jesus had done for him. The people were amazed and wondered. The Apostle Peter brought a pointed message to the congregation assembled in that Jewish Temple. Though he was arrested by the non-Christian authorities, "MANY of them which heard the Word" in that prayer service "believed; (in Acts 4:4) and the number of the men was about five thousand." This suggests that many converts were won at that particular prayer service.

Though commanded not to preach or teach in the name of the Lord Jesus, the followers of Christ banded themselves together and prayed for boldness that they might speak the word.

When Peter was cast into prison the church prayed without ceasing unto God for him, and they were "gathered together praying" (Acts 12:12) at the home of the mother of John Mark when Peter was miraculously delivered from prison.

A praying church is a revived church. Spiritual fires burn low and go out when men cease to pray. The church that fails to pray loses the touch of power, it loses its sense of God, its vital life.

Practiced Home Visitation

"They continued daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE."

As coals of fire set apart soon lose their glow and their fire, so souls kept separate from worship and fellowship lose the glow and fire of their life. There is hope for a struggling and tempted soul as long as there is a Christian fellowship that is shared and enjoyed within the sacred precincts of a Christian home. Regular church attendance and systematic home visitation keeps alive a vital spiritual interest, preserves the spirit of fellowship, prevents backsliding, insures greater usefulness and helps in the winning of converts to Christ.

Gave Generously and Sacrificially

"They sold their possessions and goods and parted them to all men, as every man had need."

The life of the Christian community must be sustained and promoted even at the price of sacrificial giving, so out of the abundance of their love they practiced the principle of Christian stewardship, not claiming that the things they possessed were their own.

Won the Hearts of the People

"Praising God and having favor with all the people."

This church grew in spiritual life and converts were won in great numbers. "Three thousand" were won in one day —the day of Pentecost. Last year more than 3,000 Methodist charges did not have a single addition by conversion during the entire year. The winning of 3,000 converts in a day would still gain the headlines.

This was no mere burst of enthusiasm that soon subsided, but rather it was a genuine work of God's grace for "the Lord ADDED to the Church DAILY such as should be saved." Even after three thousand were added to the Church, new converts were won daily.

There was no *man*-power shortage in that church, for the number of additions so increased that soon there were 5,000 men in its membership. If the percentage of women and children was as large as in the average church today, the total membership must have been very large.

The great evangelistic movement in this Spirit-empowered church continued to gather momentum. . . . "Believers *were the more added* to the Lord, *multitudes* both men and women." Thousands no longer adequately expressed the strength and magnitude of the movement; it must now be spoken of as multitudes, with the added emphasis "both of men and women."

Here Was a Church!

Here was a church with an effective program of Evangelism. It was Christ's program, and it worked. It worked then, and it will work now— if we will pay the price and follow it.

Aldersgate, 1950

MAY 24 will mark the 212th anniversary of the spiritual birthday of The Methodist Church. It is the occasion of John Wesley's famous heart-warming experience which transformed him into a powerful leader for God and founder of the great Church which stretches around the world today.

The Aldersgate experience is the basic, historical, conversion experience for Methodists. It is fitting, therefore, that we use this occasion to emphasize the importance of a personal, transforming experience in the lives of the members of our Church. Such an experience as Aldersgate needs to be lifted from the historical and made into a rich and meaningful experience for everyone who would follow Christ.

Here is a suggestion for making this occasion a vital one in your church. It should be a part of your Easter to Pentecost emphasis on assimilation of new members and activating the old ones.)

A special Aldersgate service may be held Wednesday night in connection with the midweek service. This is May 24th, the anniversary of that memorable occasion when John Wesley felt his heart strangely warmed . . . about a "quarter to nine." Incidentally, the Aldersgate experience occurred on a Wednesday.

A PRAYER

for Annual Conference

AS WE take our places, Lord, on this Conference day of 1949, there is a burden in our hearts. Because so much needs our doing, these business sessions seem wasted time and lost motion to some of us.

Will the time be redeemed for them, and perhaps for us all, if imagination can lend us insight? If we can consider this place Thy very own threshing floor, where patiently and ploddingly, grain is being separated from straw, and where the winds of Thy own high purposes sift out and drive away the chaff until, at the last, only that remains which can give new life and power to the Church, the people whom we love, the time will be redeemed for them.

But the grain, Lord, the grain. Give us wisdom to conserve that! Houses of straw and platters of chaff are mean shelter and food for those who are called to the abundant life! Let the grain of this year's growing, in our hands and with Thy blessing become the broken bread of comradeship, strengthening us, one by one and all together, so that we shall make unending assault and daring advance upon the enemies of our Christ until, like Him, we too, behold Satan fallen as lightning from Heaven.

As for *ourselves,* Lord—help us to be sensible here—we are not content to be plodding, patient, unthinking oxen. We speak introspectively of ourselves as paradoxes of dust and divinity. But Thou, Thyself, hast dared us with the gallantry of the Galilean, and hast turned us so that seeing Him, we can see no one else. In Him, Thou hast called us to disciplines too severe and adventures too dangerous for our flaccid wills and timid souls. Thou hast persuaded us that under Thy direction, O God, we are vice-gerent creatures of life and beauty.

So be it.

We submit ourselves to the chaff-hungry winds of Thy spirit. Let them blow fiercely where they will, so that we may come to do the business of each day with clean hands and pure hearts. And when things are quiet and our own hearts are still, then, Lord, *then* speak to us in the still small voice. Amen.

—Delivered at the California-Nevada Conference, by George D. Goodwin, Pastor, First Methodist Church, Watsonville, California.

Deadline for World Service
May 31

Pastors, see that your church treasurers send to Conference treasurers all the money for World Service now on hand.

District Superintendents, remind pastors and laymen of this need.

Conference treasurers, send all World Service money to Thomas B. Lugg, Treasurer, 740 Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois, before May 31, the end of the fiscal year for World Service.

The need is urgent. Your prompt cooperation will help meet needs around the world.

Advance!

by Howard M. Amoss, Pastor
North Avenue Methodist, Baltimore, Md.

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. That was His program for Advance. That must be ours if we are to be the true Body of Christ doing His will on earth.

A **1. Adapt the Gospel.** Near the end of the book that bears his name, Job testifies: "I knew thee, O God, by hearsay; now I know thee face to face." We are to adapt the Gospel, not in the sense of changing it, but in the sense of experiencing it as our very own. Like the Apostle Paul, we are ready to Advance when we can say "according to my Gospel."

D **2. Design your life's purpose.** "This one thing I do . . . I press toward . . . the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." It is then that I join His ranks, enlist in His service, follow His commands, and discover life's meaning. When youthful Francis Asbury vowed, "I am going to live to God and to bring others so to do" he was ready to lead an Advance in youthful America.

V **3. Venture with Christ.** The religion of Christ is aggressive as well as receptive. It seeks recruits for life's battles. It blows the trumpet to Advance. It attacks sin and evil and inaction. It makes Church meetings "Councils of Campaign." It is *"Onward,* Christian Soldiers."

A **4. Act with Christian attitudes.** Christ imparts His love to us; let us express that love. Christ gives Himself as Friend; let us make friends. Christ went about doing good; let us do all the good we can in all the ways we can. Christ inspires reverence; let us be reverent in devotion and service. We would put into action the attitudes that He inspires.

N **5. Nurture your faith.** We sow that we may reap; we plant that we may harvest. The wise prepare, count the cost, and build. Do we read Christian literature? Is prayer a reality? Do we find new life through worship and service? Even with the cultivation of "faith the size of a grain of mustard seed," we are promised that "Nothing would be impossible for you."

C **6. Choose Christ.** We would choose Christ not merely "once and for all" but for our every need. We would choose Him as the daily issues arise. We believe that He is the way to life, the Power over sin and evil and the answer to every temptation and problem. We can "do all things through Christ." We can Advance as was choose Christ.

E **7. Evangelize.** Christ is ever saying: "Go ye into all the world." Christ is laying His hands upon all of us and they, who have ears, hear His words: In My Name win the unconvinced, cultivate them who do not know Me, pray for the backsliders, heal the broken-hearted and let your hearts burn with My saving compassion. Sound the trumpet and Advance.

The Pastoral Call—

Gesture or Opportunity?

By C. Stanley Lowell, Pastor, Wesley Methodist Church, Washington, D. C.

The pastoral call can become one of the vital parts of the Church program if you (1) visit intelligently, (2) visit with an objective, and (3) visit with a prayer.

VISITING INTELLIGENTLY

Practical intelligence is required in every pastoral call. Many pastoral calls are no more than vague, conventional gestures without idea or meaning. Let me illustrate. In a parish I once served there was a bed-ridden patient. She had been confined to her bed for a number of years and was enjoying a reputation as a saint who bore her afflictions with patience and fortitude. My predecessors had called regularly in this home, offered beautiful prayers and left the patient in a glow of spiritual fervor.

I must say I did not like the set-up from the first. Something about it looked phoney to me. Nobody seemed to know just why this woman was bed-ridden. It was all a great mystery. She herself seemed to resent even the most indirect and diplomatic inquiries that were designed to find out. My associations with the medical fraternity soon revealed that the woman was a standing joke among the doctors. She had shuttled from one to the other in the hope that one of them would be able to diagnose her dreadful ailment. None had. There was, in fact, nothing wrong with her physically. One of the doctors had been indiscreet enough to advise her to go to bed for a few days' rest. She had gone to bed and stayed 10 years! It was much pleasanter in bed, and much easier. Besides, she got a good deal more attention and service from her family.

My predecessors, with all their noble prayers and good intentions, had not been helping this woman. They had actually been catering to her hypochondria. If there were any lingering doubts in her mind as to her martyred saintliness, they had long since been removed. I contend that this was not intelligent visiting. What this woman needed was not lovely prayers and a pat on the wrist. She needed somebody to get her up. Well, we did get her up after a lot of plotting and conniving which need not concern us here. Today her home is a going concern and she is making it go, though she was often heard to remark that I was not as spiritual a pastor as my predecessors. I might add, however, that her family thought I was wonderful.

I think, too, of another bed-ridden mystery. This chap got tired, went to bed and liked it, and never got up. He claimed to be the victim of a mysterious form of paralysis. I suspected the truth which a few discreet inquiries confirmed. There was nothing physically wrong with this man. He was just tired and wanted to be waited on by his poor wife whom he brow-beat miserably from dawn to dusk.

One day after he had been moaning about his paralysis for an interminable period, I said to him: "Well, Bro. ————————, I would be paralyzed too if I lay in bed all day and never moved. Anybody would. If you would get up and wait on yourself a little, I am sure it would do your paralysis good." I am quite sure Russell Dicks would never approve of this, but it got results. He was, of course, angry with me for some time and told everybody I was not "spiritual." But the point is—he got up.

Personally, I think the "patient suffering" motif in pastoral visiting may have been overdone. I have a friend who recently underwent an appendectomy. A clergyman called on him and offered a prayer on this wise: "Bless, O Lord, our friend. For whatever cause this affliction may have been visited upon him, may it teach him patience and endow him with fortitude. Help him to endure his suffering bravely and not to murmur against Thy Holy Will." My friend pointed out that he was not interested in enduring his illness with fortitude—he wanted to get it over, but fast. Of course, there are times when the visit may properly be directed to the theme of courage and patience. The point is to recognize which is which and do the thing that is needed.

I protest much of the conventional calling that is expected of a clergyman. It is vague, meaningless, and doesn't help anybody. Both clergyman and laymen should know what they are doing when they make a call for the Church. Get the facts, first. Know the situation so far as possible before you go. Observe and study the situation when you arrive. Shape your call to meet the need you find there. Visit intelligently.

VISITING WITH AN OBJECTIVE

The second point is to have some particular mission in mind that you mean to accomplish when you make the call. You will have studied all the known facts about this home before you enter. You will know what is needed there, or at least have some idea. If, for example, it is a back-slidden family, your work is clearly cut out for you. Visit with the object of getting that family back to church *the very next Sunday*. Never let the call fritter out into vague generality or aimless good will. Drive toward that goal diplomatically but inexorably. *Get them to Church the next Sunday*. Your chances of success diminish with the second Sunday, are fewer still with the third Sunday, and are practically extinct by the fourth Sunday.

If it is a prospect family, go right after them for a commitment. It is simply a waste of time and energy to go in and talk innocuously about "our church." Pass a few pleasantries to set the stage, then go right to work. If they are members of the Church, secure permission to write for

their letters. Sign the children up for church-school classes then and there. If there are no letters, enroll them for the next adult preparatory class. You will, of course, be told that they are new in the community, that they want an opportunity to visit the church, etc., etc.—all the circumlocutions and hedges that make a pastor's life difficult. Meet them all with cheerfulness and patience, but also with firmness. Drive toward the goal.

I have found that this point is of particular importance in connection with laymen's visiting. The clergyman may be content to fritter his time away in aimless parlor talk, but not the average layman. He wants to do something; he wants to get somewhere. If he is sent out "to make calls for the church," the chances are he won't be interested. But if he is asked to achieve certain specific objectives in the homes where he visits, that interests him. This is a challenge. It is something definite to be done and he will go and do it.

If difficulties develop which seem to preclude achieving the objective, then try for a proximate goal. Half a loaf is better than none. If, for instance, the prospect family is dead set against making a commitment now, then try for the next best thing. Perhaps the children can be enrolled for church school. Perhaps all will agree to visit the church the next Sunday. If the paramount objective seems impossible after you have given it a good try, then salvage whatever you can and mark it down as progress. Do not be too proud to gather up the crumbs if you have been denied the pièce de résistance.

THE PRAYER

Finally, pray as you visit. There may well be a conscious feeling and expression of dependence on God as you ring the doorbell. The praying, like the calling, should be intelligent and specific. It should be directed toward results which need to be accomplished but which no visitor, in his own strength alone, can hope to achieve. One draws on the power of God to help him in his mission. Assuredly the visit is too sacred an opportunity to be approached in anything but the spirit of prayer. We must remember who these persons are. They are not merely people with this or that problem. They are not so much material that it seems good to us to try to manipulate in this way or the other. No: they are sacred personalities precious in the sight of God. They are folk for whom Christ Himself did not disdain to die. "Now are (they) the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what (they) shall be." There is only one spirit in which we dare meet such persons—prayer.

Family Evangelism

A family can be secured for Christ and the Church easier than an individual.

1. *In family interviews, get the whole family together and make a regular friendly approach.* Let the approach be graded according to the age of the children. Here are a few talking points, but do not use all of them:

Where small children are in the home, visit about the importance of early training and the fact that life attitudes are established very young.

Talk about having a Christian home, grace at the table, bedtime prayers, mother visiting with the child about Jesus, a normal religious experience.

A little child loves Jesus and thinks of himself as one of God's children.

The development of the Christian life should be as the unfolding of a flower.

You are living for your children. Your future happiness depends upon your children.

Good young people usually come from good homes. Bad young people usually come from bad homes. Occasionally a good youth comes from a bad home or occasionally a bad youth comes from a good home, but these are exceptions and should not be regarded as criteria.

2. *You can reach the family when the decisions of children are secured in the presence of parents.*

Family cooperation is needed. Parents should hear conversation that secures decision. Then their approval and cooperation is automatically secured.

Interview everyone on complete list of unreached children and young people.

3. *Mass psychology is used where one starts and others follow the leader.* Personal decisions with backing and cooperation of the parents are to be preferred.

4. *Win one member of the family; then follow-up to secure the entire family.*

Family evangelism is the most efficient way to enlarge the Kingdom. They make their decisions together and help each other carry them out.

KEEP A SUPPLY ON HAND

There are certain types of leaflets and printed materials that it is always well to have on hand, for occasions that will inevitably arise. We believe that every church should have a dozen to a hundred copies of the following on hand:

"Be A Member Where You Are" $2.00 per 100
for persons who should transfer their membership

Overcoming Sorrow 5¢ each, 25 or more, 3¢ each
a leaflet by Bishop Costen J. Harrell
for persons who have lost loved ones

Baptized Today 5¢ each; 12 for 50¢
a leaflet by a pastor to parents
concerning the baptism of infants and children

Prayer Circle Cards $2.00 per 100
prayer card folders for individuals and groups, containing prayer covenant, suggestions, list, etc.

Prospect and Assignment Cards 50¢ per 100

Attendance Registration Cards 50¢ per 100
(for visitors)

Record of Commitment Cards 50¢ per 100
for recording confession of faith or requesting transfer

TIDINGS, 1908 Grand, Nashville, Tenn.

Almost Everyone in Osawatomie Knows About The Upper Room

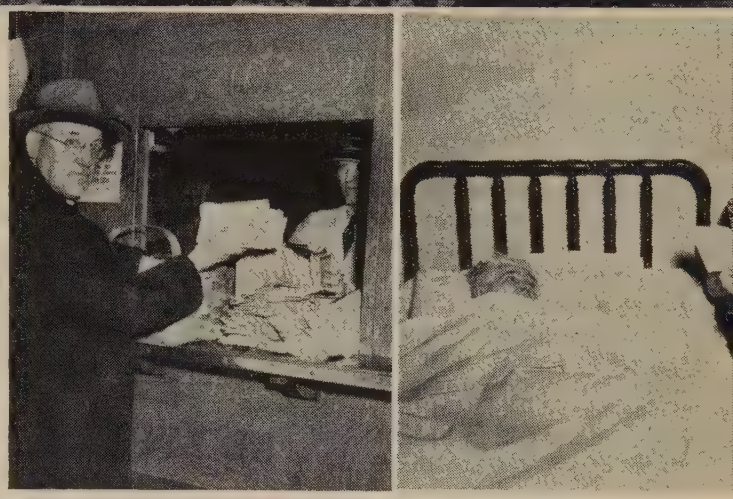
by William I. Hastie,
Kansas Conference Secretary of Evangelism

"COULD I have a copy of THE UPPER ROOM just issued?" The voice on the phone was that of the railroad "caller," a young man who works through the night calling crews for emergency and regular runs. Not a member of our church, he knew that our issue of THE UPPER ROOM missed him this time, due to his absense from the city for several months. We promised to put one in our mail-box for him, and he called for it in the middle of the night.

Almost everyone in Osawatomie knows that First Methodist Church sends out THE UPPER ROOM every other month. The beauty parlors know it, as our Woman's Society Chairman of Spiritual Life takes one personally to each beauty parlor—as well as to each doctor's office in town. People read them as they wait. Fifty or more potential members, or "marginal" Methodist families know it, for they receive a copy through the mail. A number of copies go to the State Hospital located a mile outside Osawatomie, and they are circulated freely. Every family in the church has a copy before the old issue is finished, and through the *Methodist News,* a mimeographed weekly which is sent to them by mail, they are gently admonished to get THE UPPER ROOM daily habit. The mimeograph stencil "windows" supplied from Nashville are excellent for this purpose.

How did it come about? Two years ago, the Official Board was persuaded by the pastor at that time to give the Parish Plan an experimental try-out. It worked so well that it has been continued under the present pastorate with great satisfaction. The little yellow envelopes which are enclosed bring back a sufficient amount to warrant making it a regular procedure. The financial part is never pressed, and the voluntary returns have been adequate. Not everyone pays, but enough to cover almost the entire cost. THE UPPER ROOM item is included in the church budget.

At first it seemed somewhat of a chore, with the envelope to put into the book, then insert THE UPPER ROOM into the folded *News,* then staple it to be sure the book arrived safely. But now, since we know the keen pleasure, and the real spiritual comfort THE UPPER ROOM gives to each family, the pastor and his wife deem it a joy, do the routine work themselves, and send the books out with a prayer. Into 450 homes or offices they go each time, and if they carry as much inspiration and joy to others as they give to the senders, they are indeed fulfilling their mission.



Top, Pastor William I. Hastie and his wife prepare mailing of *The Upper Room* on dining room table. Bottom, left, the pastor delivers the 450 copies to the post office, where Larkin Russell receives them. Bottom, right, Mrs. Clark Myers, home department visitor, reads *The Upper Room* to an aged, blind person, Mrs. Aura Verdier.

Our visitors, and our Home Department Superintendent, often use them as the basis of their conversation in the homes. To our sick and shut-ins, this is a genuine pleasure. So, at the end of every other month, there are eager expectant folks on the receiving end, and the praying, confident parsonage family at the sending end, each involved in the new issue of THE UPPER ROOM. Some of the enthusiasm of this church for spreading wide the influence of the daily devotional booklet stems from the days of the war, when more than 100 copies were sent quarterly to the men and women in military service all over the world.

Who can measure the influence of these worship-stimulating booklets? Not the pastor and the Official Board of this church. We realize that every family does not use THE UPPER ROOM, but it is always ready for them, and more and more they are responding to the silent challenge of the beautiful picture on the cover, and the stimulating daily thoughts. The Holy Spirit uses this little booklet to lift and inspire thousands of lives all over the world.

No Roads From Hell's Canyon to Paradise

. . . Not only that, the roads from Eden to Paradise are almost impassable

Harold Mackey, pastor, Wallowa, Oregon, stands beside his new station wagon which he obtained after he wrote the accompanying story. Taking the Gospel to the remote parts of the Northwest is a rugged as well as a rewarding experience. His circuit covers a territory nearly the size of the Newark Annual Conference.

by Harold Mackay
Methodist Pastor, Wallowa, Oregon

HELL'S Canyon is the country's deepest canyon, made by the Snake River as it flows northward, forming the boundary between Oregon and Idaho. Paradise and Eden are two localities in Northeastern Wallowa County, Oregon, less than 30 miles (by air) from the Canyon. To complete the dramatic naming of the region, however, we must keep in mind that from Paradise you can see the Seven Devils Mountains of Idaho.

In his report to the Idaho Annual Conference, District Superintendent H. G. McCallister said of this region: "Here is a rural empire awaiting the arrival of some minister who has a vision of a field of service of this kind, where there are thousands of acres of rich grazing land, and abundantly watered by the snows of the Wallowa Range. Here live thousands of people waiting a type of ministry that speaks their language. No larger opportunity and challenge can be found in the Idaho Conference! Who wants to place his ability against this field?"

Now, the writer of this article didn't stand up "in meetin' " and say, "Here am I, Lord, send me," but when the appointments were read the Methodist Church at Wallowa, Oregon, had a minister named Harold Mackey, all 6'2" and 200 pounds.

Under the urging of the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension, I undertook to see if anything could be done to provide some kind of religious service for the people living in the 1,200 square miles of northern Wallowa County. At one time there had been several Methodist churches and preaching stations through this part of the county. However, with the reduction of population (due to the consolidation of ranches) and the shortage of ministers, this work was discontinued even though people were still living in the area.

With the ghost af many a circuit rider haunting me, and the experience of our modern Rocky Mountain Circuit Rider, Leslie Bailey, pointing the way, I made an exploratory trip, covering over 200 miles, and a territory nearly as large as the Newark Conference (my home Conference). The trip took me to Flora, which was at one time the center of a Methodist Circuit; then to Troy, down on the Grande Rhode River (the sign said seven miles, but it took me an hour to go down) and finally over to Eden, which is on a ridge eight miles from Troy. The country amazed me: it was creeks and canyons, with ridges between. Wherever the ridge was flat enough to cultivate, wheat was grown; wherever there was grass or pasture, beef cattle were grazing. Much of the territory, however, is rock and gravel, and produces only a thin layer of vegetation which is hardly visible.

At Flora I found 45 families, in and around Troy nearly 90, and in Eden some dozen families, with no religious service available. In talking to some 30 families in the three days, I asked them, "Would you be interested in a regular monthly program to consist of (1) a pot-luck dinner, (2) a time of recreation for the young people, and (3) a preaching service?" Most of them said they would be interested; however, when asked if the community would support such a program they said, "You'll just have to try it and see."

A couple of weeks later I left my

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY, MAY 14

Rural and city churches in many areas are cooperating on this day in the annual observance of Rural Life Sunday. In some cases county and city pastors are exchanging pulpits; in other cases local agricultural organizations such as 4-H Clubs, Future Farmers, etc., are cooperating in the service.

If your church is not observing Rural Life Sunday on this date, it may do so at a later time. A special order of service is available from

The Home Mission Council of North America
297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Price: 5¢ per copy; $1.00 per 100; $2.05 per 250; $3.30 per 500.

family at the comfortable Wallowa parsonage and went to spend a second three-day period with these people who had once been served by the Methodists, but who had been largely forgotten for over 10 years. That afternoon I did some calling in "Paradise," to interest folks in the meeting we would have that evening at Flora, about seven miles to the east. Fifty-two were present at Flora on Tuesday night; 19 at Eden on Wednesday and 39 on Thursday in Troy. First we ate. Then we had recreation. There were silly songs and stunts for the smaller kids, to give them a good time. From that we turned to the young people and adults. After some group games, we had some folk dancing—the finest, cleanest kind of recreation this writer has been able to find. Then we sang folk songs and a few hymns, which led us into our preaching service. We had both a children's and an adult sermon.

Then (we had been busy about 2½ hours) I outlined once again the program we had in mind, admitting it was an experiment. Would they be interested? Somebody suggested a show of hands. I countered that it would be better if they stood up for a minute to stretch. At Flora, 45 of the 52 present stood up, in effect asking me back in another month. The other seven? They were tots asleep on the benches.

The situation was the same the other two evenings. The people had the fellowship of a fine community dinner, then some just plain fun; then a Christian sermon. Again they asked that we do whatever was necessary to carry on this program.

And what is necessary? Principally a new "rig" which the preacher can use in his work at Wallowa, and which will take him over the rocky, muddy roads of the Flora-Paradise-Troy-Eden area. Like many a rural preacher, I have been getting along with an old "jaloppy" which has seen its best days. (I borrowed a pick-up for these trips.)

The writer has had several opportunities to show himself interested in the community life of each of these towns. During the first trip, I took an hour to present a kodaslide assembly program for the Flora School (enrollment 38) and was there (thank God) a few minutes later when the school superintendent needed a preacher to talk to.

On our second trip the men of the village came together, and before I turned homeward, the Flora Methodist Church had a new roof, new louvers in the belfry, a new walk, and the stove pipe had some badly needed repairs. Next trip I will be transporting a large collection of National Geographic Magazines and Reader's Digests which an interested Methodist layman is presenting to the Flora School, to the delight of the superintendent and his high school staff (his wife).

In addition, some interest in our work was aroused when the preacher appeared on the program of the Troy Women's Club during the second trip.

Do the people appreciate this? I place two facts in evidence. First, the 110 people presented an offering amounting to almost $20 even though many were not prepared for an offering (rural folks just don't carry cash around the way urbanites take for granted). This means that once the necessary means of transportation is provided, this circuit will not require further outside financial assistance.

Second, in the county newspaper, the Troy correspondent wrote, in summary, "Altogether it was a very enjoyable evening and everyone is looking forward to the next one on December 8, when Mr. Mackey will be with us again."

RURAL PASTORS

Rural pastors have been wanting a leaflet for distribution in farm homes—a leaflet that will squarely and fairly confront the farmer with the claim of God and Christ and the church in his community, and one that frankly asks for a decision and challenges to constant Christian living and churchmanship. Here it is:

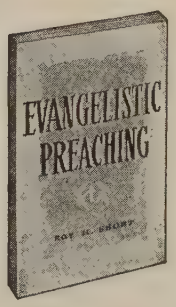
GOD AND THE FARMER

by James S. Chubb

Excellent for pastors and spiritual laymen to leave in a home following a visit. Might even be mailed into all the rural homes or distributed at church. Order a supply today. $1.50 per 100.

TIDINGS
1908 Grand Avenue
Nashville 4, Tenn.

WHAT PREACHER HAS NOT READ?



Evangelistic Preaching
By Roy H. Short

A Preaching Mission
12 excellent sermons by the new bishops

The Essentials of Evangelism
By Ralph S. Cushman

The Pastor and the Pre-Marriage Conference
By Hazen G. Werner

My Call to Preach—Statements by famous preachers, Edited by E. A. Hunter

WHAT PREACHER HAS NOT GIVEN THESE TO HIS MEMBERS?

The Gospel in Homespun
By Costen J. Harrell

The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian
By Clinton M. Cherry

The Methodist Primer
By Claude C. Selecman

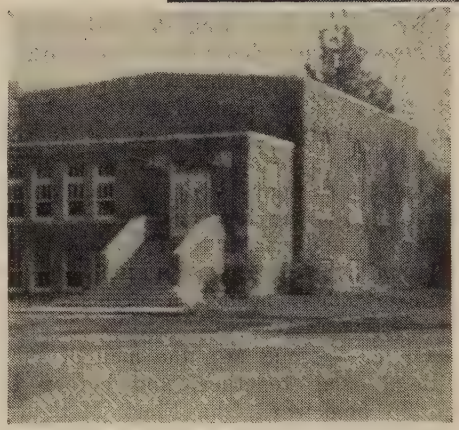
Jesus and Worship
By Tom Chilcote, Jr.

See TIDINGS Order Blank

No Tricks On Halloween In This Church

by Willard O. Peterson, Pastor
Methodist Church
Richland, Iowa

Instead of saying, "Trick or Treat," this junior youth fellowship handed each person a copy of *The Upper Room*.



Left, The Methodist Church at Richland, Iowa, and, right, Pastor Willard O. Peterson who tells this interesting way of helping his church youngsters to get a religious meaning out of Halloween.

WHEN householders of Richland, Iowa, heard knocks on their doors on Halloween, they expected the usual masked and costumed figures with the usual greeting, "Tricks or Treats." They were not surprised therefore to find a group of young people on their doorsteps, complete with masks, costumes, and paper bags. But, before they could reach for their boxes of candy, apples or popcorn balls they had prepared for such emergencies on Halloween, the young masked figures said, "We are not here for treats. We would like to give you something. Will you accept this UPPER ROOM from the Methodist Church, and use it in your family worship? We believe you will enjoy it." Then, still refusing to accept the regular treats, the masked figures disappeared into the darkness, to go knock on another door and repeat the performance.

In talking over Halloween plans with the Junior Youth Fellowship of the Methodist Church, we tried to find some plan that would make Halloween mean something besides destructiveness and mischiefmaking. The young people, composed of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade pupils, were surprised to discover that Halloween had a religious significance. They wanted to express this new knowledge in some real way, and were pleased to join in the plan to distribute THE UPPER ROOM booklet to homes. After spending about an hour on Halloween in distributing the booklets to about 70 homes, they returned to the Church for a Halloween party, complete with bobbing for apples, doughnuts on a string, costume judging, and a happy time by all concerned. The young people were excitedly repeating their experiences of the evening.

It was a new experience for the townspeople too. Next morning, and for days afterward, reports kept coming in about how nicely the young people acted. Ladies reported that the young men were true gentlemen. In spite of their giggling presentations, and their forgetting what to say at times, the group acted like Christian young people. One man, who had not used THE UPPER ROOM before said, "I sat down and read it clear through that night."

Even as late as Christmas we were still getting reports of the wonderful thing the young people did at Halloween. Everyone was blessed. The people learned that our children are not all hoodlums, and the children learned that "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Great Moments in the Life of Christ
CHARLES M. LAYMON
"It is the kind of book over which one may linger with loving attention and deepening spiritual uplift."
—Bishop Paul B. Kern
Into the compass of this devotional book have been compressed fourteen moments of decision that determined the earthly ministry of our Lord. Using the Gospel narrative as presented by Mark the author presents a series of fourteen devotional studies which will find many uses in church, church school and home.
48 pages *Single copy 15 cents, 8 copies $1.00* *Attractive Cover*
THE UPPER ROOM 1908 Grand Avenue Nashville 4, Tenn.

Is Your Fishing Successful?

—Practical Suggestions on Leaflet Evangelism—

ANGLERS are a queer lot of Pharisees, each school being definitely and desperately unhappy unless deriding the methods and practices of all other schools. Let anyone who harbors a desire to see fur fly ask a group of fishermen whether it is better to fish upstream or down. Instantly the camp is divided. Each side will prove by incontrovertible logic that it is impossible to fish any other way than upstream—or downstream. The mere fact that through the ages one school has been about as successful as the other never enters the discussion. Each angler seems to have a system all his own and is confident that it is the method. A candid investigation would probably prove that they are all variations of several easily distinguished principles.

When Captain John Smith was exploring the Potomac, the company which he led was desperately short of food. The streams abounded with fish, but they had no proper fishing tackle. In his diary the captain wrote, "For want of netts wee attempted to catch them with frying pan but found it a bad instrument to catch fish with."

We are fishers of men! There is no shortage of men who need to be caught. They are everywhere! Could it be that one reason why we are not more successful catching them is because we are trying to do this with a "frying pan" or some other awkward devise?

There are, undoubtedly, many methods of fishing for men, but a most effective way is through the use of Gospel tracts. The late W. B. Riley once said, "When the judgment shall come and the King shall sit on the throne with His righteous at His right, there will be more people in that redeemed throng who, in answer to the question, 'What led you to Christ?' will reply in chorus, 'a tract,' than will point to Spurgeon, or Wesley, or Whitefield, or even the Apostle Paul, saying, 'That man!' "

The Plan

Successful fishing demands that three agencies operate simultaneously. First,

there must be an agent known as the angler; second, there must be a lure known as the bait; and, finally, there must be a fish known as the catch. These three—*angler, bait, catch*—are the requisites of successful fishing.

Successful fishing further demands that three principles be observed. First, the angler must go where the fish are; second, the bait must be of the right kind; and, third, the catch must be hauled in.

The primary laws of fishing are twice epitomized by three words in John 1: 35-50, where we may discover the Holy Spirit's pattern for fishers of men. The first, *find* (vs. 41 and 45), corresponds with the first law of successful fishing, go where the fish are. The second word, *tell* (vs. 41 and 45), corresponds to the second basic law, use the right kind of bait. And the third word, *bring* (vs. 42 and 46), corresponds to the third law of successful fishing, haul in when you get a bite. This divine plan is not only used twice in this passage, but it is also possible to trace its use in every instance of personal evangelism cited in the New Testament.

The Angler

The Angler, our Lord Jesus, said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). When this invitation was originally extended by our Lord, it was addressed to four fishermen that He had chosen to become His co-laborers, but we need have no hesitation in applying it to ourselves, for the words of our Lord include not only Peter and Andrew, James and John, but all who hear and obey even as they did. He who is "the same yesterday, and today, and forever" said then, and He still says, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." He did not say "I can," or "I might"; but "I will make you fishers of men."

Julian, the Apostate, so we have read, contemptuously said, "The Galilean did most aptly term His apostles fishers, for as the fisherman draws out his victim from the waters, where they are free and happy, into an element in which they cannot breathe, so did they do who made men Christians." Had he known what the Lord really said, Julian would not have fallen into such an error. The Greek word used by our Lord, with a singular felicity, excludes and anticipates such an idea for it means to "take alive." What Christ really said, therefore, was: "Thou shalt be a catcher of men alive" (Luke 5:10 Gr.) and He meant them to understand that, whereas they had been catching fish for death, they were now to catch men for life eternal.

The Bait

"We boast of preaching," said Russell H. Conwell, "and declare thoughtlessly that the world will be saved by preaching, when all the while common sense shows us that the Bible only is His Word, and that it is His Word, and not the minister's essay, that 'shall not pass away.' The world will never hear the Gospel from the pulpits. It must be sent to them and put directly under their eyes. Hence the necessity that churches should . . . use profusely books and tracts."

In order to attract, tracts must be attractive. Tracts should not bear upon their very forehead their number and series. We believe that they would be much more likely to be effective bait if they came as isolated messengers, each complete in itself. Many who get hold of a tract marked, "Large Type, Series No. 8," or "Tracts to the Unconverted. No. 2," or "Wayside Leaves, No. 3," or some other inscription, feel that they are the victims of a system; they are not being grappled by a truth, or talked with by a friend; but they are being operated on by a system, and that they do not like.

Tracts should point the sinner to Christ. Don't be afraid to use bait that carries the full gospel message of God's wrath on the sinner's sin and His love for the sinner. Don't be misled into using tracts that make salvation too easy, for the lost person cannot be saved unless he recognizes his sinful state and repents of his sinfulness. Not without reason did Shakespeare say: "Bait the hook well; the fish will bite."

The Catch

What should we think of a man whose motive in fishing was to show himself to the fish, and not pull in the fish itself? To stop short of pulling in the fish that has been attracted, is to fail at the most vital point.

Tract distribution is a most successful way of fishing for men but a word of personal testimony will often help when pulling in the net. C. H. Spurgeon said, "A tract is a useful thing, but a living word is better. Your eye, and face, and voice will all help. Do not be so cowardly as to give a piece of paper only where your own speech would be so much better. I charge you, attend to this, for Jesus' sake."

Begin, today, to experience the thrill of fishing for men with tracts. It works! Try it!

(This article first appeared in *The Gideons* magazine and is reprinted here by permission.)

Every Church

needs leaflets
available for
members and constituents

Not too many
at one time

Not the same leaflets
all the time

But a few
on display

And more available
in the pastor's study
or church office

To meet
requests and needs

LOOK
through *Shepherds* each month
FOR SUGGESTIONS

Have you had your Church
to join the new TIDINGS
"Tract-of-the-Month"
Club?

See inside back cover of this magazine and use Tidings Order Blank

TIDINGS
Headquarters for
Evangelistic Leaflets
"See You in Church Sunday"
and
Visitation Evangelism materials
1908 Grand Nashville 4, Tenn.

Planning to Advance

ON ALL FRONTS

By J. W. Golden

THE College of Bishops of the Central Jurisdiction, representatives of the General Boards and Commissions of The Methodist Church and the Editor of the *Central Christian Advocate,* met in our Central Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, to study the work of each department, and plan for our Advance on all fronts for Christ and His Church. The following were present:

Bishop A. P. Shaw, Bishop R. N. Brooks, Bishop J. W. E. Bowen, Dr. M. S. Davage, Dr. J. A. Greene, Dr. A. R. Howard, Dr. C. H. Dubra, Dr. E. A. Love, Dr. H. W. Bartley, Dr. D. R. Fletcher, Dr. J. H. Touchstone, Dr. P. A. Taylor, Dr. J. W. Haywood, Dr. T. B. Echols, the writer, and several community pastors.

Bishop Shaw in the morning meditation lifted us to spiritual heights. Bishop Brooks's preparatory statement made clear the purpose and importance of the meeting and he allocated a given period of time for each representative to present his phase of the work. In this we were brought face to face with our total program and the relation of every phase of our work in the Advance for Christ and His Church. And there we sought every way possible for full cooperation of both ministers and laymen, to successfully meet the challenge, and to accomplish that for which we have been commissioned, and for which the church has been established in every rural and urban community. In many cases throughout the Central Jurisdiction there are building enterprises and missionary projects for which we recommend and urge larger self-support and less loans. But whenever loans are secured from the Board of Missions and Church Extension, the payments should be made as consistently and quickly as possible.

Stewardship was considered a vital part of the Advance program. This relates to service, substance, time and the total Christian life.

It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that evangelism is the undergirding and motivating element of the entire program of the Church. We definitely approved of all productive methods, and recommend special visitation and preaching missions, continuous work of evangelism in every local church for commitments to Christian discipleship, recruits for the ministry, home and foreign missionary work, and the many other types of Christian service.

In this connection the importance of our work of assimilation, integration, training and development on the part of the local church and educational institutions, was considered. To advance and succeed in this, we recognize the value of the work of the local church board of education, the pastor's training classes, and our faculties in colleges, seminaries and universities. To them we pledge our devout cooperation.

We also recognize the place of importance and value of the Christian home in the Advance for Christ and His Church, Christian fellowship, World Peace and Universal Brotherhood. We call upon the parents, through our ministry, to establish the family prayer life, Bible reading and study, make use of THE UPPER ROOM and TIDINGS religious literature to create the best Christian home life and favorable environments for our youth in home and community.

In all this, those who faithfully serve until they come to the years of retirement are not forgotten. They are definitely a part of the Church's responsibility. Thus the plan of pensions and relief is vital and of much concern, and is to be emphasized, the claims of which are to be fully cared for by every minister and local church.

We were assured by the editor that all these interests will have the service of the *Central Christian Advocate* in reaching and making known these causes to every member possible, so that there will be marked advance in every phase of our work.

New Abingdon-Cokesbury Books

Preaching the Miracles of Jesus, by Hillyer H. Straton. The meaning of Christ's miracles, and their sermon values for today—by the pastor of the First Baptist Church, Malden, Massachusetts. 223 pages. $2.50.

What Are You Living For? by John Sutherland Bonnell. For every man and woman today, the key to a positive answer to life's basic question—by the pastor of New York's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. 188 pages. $2.00.

The Higher Happiness, by Ralph W. Sockman. The beatitudes of Jesus—the way of life at its best—by the preacher of the National Radio Pulpit and pastor of Christ Church (Methodist), New York. 174 pages. $2.00.

When the Church Was Young, by Clovis G. Chappell. Sermons from the Book of Acts. In the Book of Acts lies the solution to the problems our churches face today—by one of America's most popular preachers. 184 pages. $2.00.

New Book by Bishop Oxnam

Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, in his book *Personalities in Social Reform,* has told us about six heroic thinkers who had and have a warm-hearted and an intelligent faith in God, a great purpose in life, a consuming love for individual man and the masses which caused them to live the redemptive life and have a "reverence for life."

These six persons are Sidney and Beatrice Webb, Walter Rauschenbusch, David E. Lilienthal, Mahatma Gandhi, and Albert Schweitzer. The careful reading of this study made by Bishop Oxnam of these six pioneers for justice and brotherhood among men will furnish you information and inspiration and will prove to you again and again what Huxley said, "It does not take much of a man to be a Christian but it takes all of him." These six persons gave all they had to God and to the establishment of His Kingdom.

These six social reformers brought about revolutions, not by following the philosophy of Karl Marx, but by living the teachings of Jesus Christ.

—Harry Denman

Published by Abingdon-Cokesbury, this book contains 176 pages and sells for $2.00.

Mrs. J. B. Collins, long time Methodist, uses *The Upper Room* each day in her comfortable suburban home.

Pastor Tom Pledger of The Candler Memorial Church finds *The Upper Room* helpful in visiting prospective members.

Sixty patients in the Pine Breeze tuberculosis sanitarium receive copies of *The Upper Room* Here Pastor J. R. Washington talks to a patient

Chattanooga Distributes The Upper Roo

During the recent United Evangelistic Campaign in Chattanooga (See article on page 28) empha to the value of a daily devotional program as a part of the regular church ministry. In Chattanooga churches place The Upper Room regularly in every home. Other churches have found it useful in de prospective membership roll, in maintaining a ministry to shut-ins, in extending a ministry to hospita in encouraging lay visiting, in promoting young adult work and in many other ways.

Chattanooga churches distribute more than 5,000 copies of each issue of The Upper Room. This do copies on individual subscriptions nor those under the Chaplain's Fund.

George R. Harding, jeweler and superintendent of the church school at First Church receives his copy of *The Upper Room* from his pastor.

A pastor sets the example for daily devotions in his own home. Here R. H. odist Church reads from *The Upper Room while* Mrs. Manwiller and their tw read the Bible reading for the day as suggested by *The Upper Room.*

ne of the Methodist pastors Chattanooga who use the n Cultivation Plan talk with presentative of The Upper . Clockwise, beginning left round, they are: L. P. Whit- District Superintendent of Central Jurisdiction; Bernie ton, pastor, Ridgedale; J. R. ington, Wiley Memorial; W. Mohney, Manker Me- ; T. F. Chilcote, Jr., First; . Manwiller, Trinity; and Hermann, public relations or of The Upper Room.

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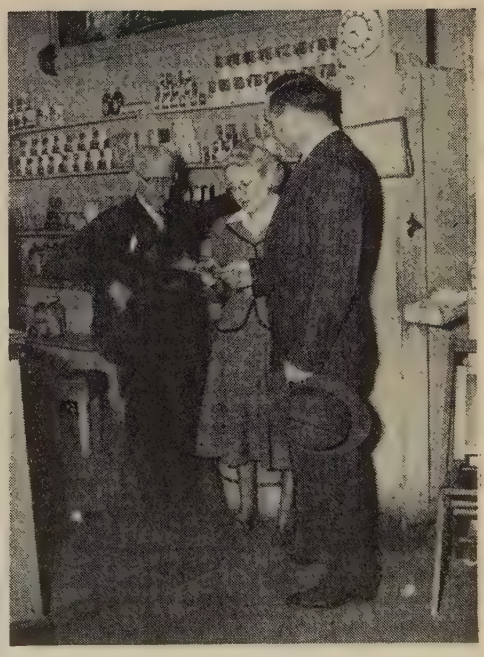
or of the Trinity Meth- Mrs. Manwiller has just

District Superintendent L. P. Whitten is enthusiastic about the values of *The Upper Room* in his district. Here he talks about it to J. R. Washington.



Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Miller, for many years owners of a small grocery store, are avid readers of *The Upper Room*. Here their pastor, Bernie Hampton, presents them with the newest number.

The Fellowship of the Upper Room

HUNDREDS of stories of the effectiveness of THE UPPER ROOM in winning people to a closer walk with Christ have been told. These stories concern people in every walk of life and in many different circumstances. Because of this effectiveness in touching the human heart and mind, many people have, across the years, made use of THE UPPER ROOM in their personal evangelistic work.

In order to gather together the methods used and to make the plan available to others, the General Board of Evangelism at its annual meeting in 1949 authorized the establishment of a special work under the name of The Fellowship of The Upper Room. It is now a little more than a year since the plan first was set in motion without fanfair or public announcement. The results of that year indicate that there is in the Fellowship a rich mine that can be used in the extension of the Kingdom of God. The Fellowship exists to emphasize and stimulate the use of THE UPPER ROOM in the field of evangelism.

The Board felt that it was the sacred obligation of THE UPPER ROOM to make this ministry available to many others who do not know Christ.

The general plan under which the Fellowship operates is simple. If you know of people who are not Christians and who might be helped by THE UPPER ROOM, you can be their "unknown friend." You not only provide THE UPPER ROOM but you also keep them in your prayers. You provide their names and addresses, and the cost of subscriptions. THE UPPER ROOM sends each issue to these people and with the first one an attractive gift card which simply says: "A Gift for You—Beginning with the enclosed copy you will receive this devotional guide for a year. It comes to you through the the Fellowship of THE UPPER ROOM. The Fellowship seeks to draw men to Christ through Daily Devotions." The gift is thus anonymous but the recipient has the indication that he is in the mind and heart of someone.

After a year, how is the plan working? Wonderful letters are being received from men and women who are joining The Fellowship (see below). They are grateful for the opportunity. Some friends whose acquaintanceship does not provide names of people not yet won to Christ have asked that names be supplied for them. Others have asked that money be used to provide daily devotions to needy people. Thus, many copies are going to Europe where many Christians learned to love THE UPPER ROOM. They first received copies from American soldiers but are now prohibited by currency regulations as well as poverty from sending money to America for subscriptions.

What are the results on the people to whom copies are being sent? That is a more difficult question, but the flow of letters from those who have found THE UPPER ROOM helpful in finding Christ continues and an increasing number of people are making prayer for their acquaintances a part of their daily devotions.

The project has demonstrated that there is a need for this Fellowship, both among those who will find Christ because of its work and among those who will be stimulated to help and pray for others. For complete information write M. L. Chatham, Director, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville 4, Tennessee.

Letter From a New Member

Dear Friend:

I was so pleased to receive your invitation to membership in The Fellowship of The Upper Room. I did not answer immediately because I was waiting to get more names.

I am sending check for $16.00 and 32 names. These people whose names I am sending to you are not necessarily non-church people, but they are all people who would not have The Upper Room otherwise. And from what I have learned they are people who would appreciate The Upper Room.

A very nice colored maid here in the hotel where I live and who is a subscriber to The Upper Room chose five names for me. She understands that she is not to tell them about the subscriptions. Then from my friend, the Y.W.C.A. Secretary, I got 22 names. They are women who are members of a social group at the "Y." Although underprivileged, they are bright and alert and aspire to good things. The group is predominantly Protestant and I have given you the names of the non-Catholics. I thought it would be a fine thing for all these Protestant ladies in that group to be receiving The Upper Room. One thing they would have in common to discuss would be the book.

I have been waiting to mail this for I felt I might think of some more names, but today I received my Upper Room and I wanted so badly that these people should receive the same issue on time.

Thank you so much for this privilege.

My very best wishes for the ministry of The Fellowship of The Upper Room.

"THE SEVENTY," composed of 70 leaders of the Syracuse Area, is the Planning Committee for the Syracuse Evangelistic Advance.

Ten Days for God

by Harry L. Williams

MIRACLES are often reported but seldom predicted. Yet so great is our faith in God's power to do what we pray and work for, and in the wholehearted devotion of the Syracuse Area leadership, that we dare to predict a miracle will take place in this Area's "Ten Days for God," Evangelistic Advance, November 3-12, 1950.

A miracle is something we can't explain. We see it, we feel it, we know the results, but how, we do not understand. Who can dream, who can imagine, who can guess what will happen when 1,000 guest pastors and 500 host pastors, 150,000 active Methodists, and 10,000 visiting laymen give their all for ten days to God?

Ten great metropolitan centers, holding simultaneous schools of evangelism; more than 500 local churches holding simultaneous evangelistic meetings; 10,000 laymen doing evangelistic visiting. Such united simultaneous evangelism will stir the Empire State, this great Church and our nation.

In size, the Syracuse Area Evangelistic Advance is greater than anything ever attempted in Methodism.

Under the leadership of Bishop W. Earl Ledden, the Area Cabinet and The Seventy (Planning Committee) the following plan has been adopted.

ORGANIZATION:

General Chairman—Bishop W. Earl Ledden

Executive Chairman—Alfred L. Taylor
Director—Harry L. Williams

I. Area Committees
   A. "The Seventy" (Planning Committee) composed of:
      The 10 District Superintendents
      The 15 Conference and District Chairmen and Executive Secretaries
      The 13 Conference and District Lay Leaders
      The 13 Conference and District President W. S.-C. S.
      The 13 Conference and District Youth Directors
      The 3 Executive Secretaries, Board of Education
      The 3 Conference Youth Presidents
   B. Ten Committees
      1. Prayer—Elroy D. Van Dyke, Superintendent Geneva District
      2. Youth—Kenmore W. Haight, Superintendent Hornell District
      3. Local Church—A. Leslie Potter, Superintendent Black River-Ontario District

At right is the Executive Committee for this Advance. It is composed of the Area Cabinet and Harry L. Williams, Director of Public Evangelism, General Board of Evangelism. Bishop Earl Ledden is seated in the middle of the front row. Alfred L. Taylor, superintendent of the Syracuse District and Executive Director, is at the extreme left of the back row. Williams is in the center of the back row.

4. Publicity—Russell S. Brown, Superintendent Mohawk District
5. Mass Meetings—Richard J. Davey, Superintendent Buffalo District
6. Housing—Robert W. Anthony, Superintendent St. Lawrence District
7. Finance—Charles Bollinger, Superintendent, Olean District
8. Radio-Television—Ernest E. Davis, Superintendent Rochester District
9. Transportation—Harold S. Swales, Superintendent Elmira District
10. Assignment—Alfred L. Taylor, Superintendent Syracuse District

II. District Committees
   A. General
      Members of "The Seventy" residing within the District
   B. Ten Committees
      Corresponding to the Area Committees

III. Local Church Committees
   A. General
      Pastor, Lay Leader, President W. S. C. S., Youth, Sunday school superintendent, members of the Membership and Evangelism Committee
   B. Local Church Committee
      Number and organization as deemed best by the local church General Committee

PROGRAM:

Ten Schools of Evangelism, November 3-10
Ten Youth Rallies (Saturday night, November 4)
Ten Great Mass Meetings (Sunday, November 12, 3:30 P.M.) in ten metropolitan centers, Buffalo, Rochester, Hornell, Olean, Syracuse, Geneva, Elmira, Watertown, Potsdam, Utica

In Every Local Charge and Church
Sunday, November 5
Morning worship (regular local time)
2:30-3:15 P.M.—Visitation Instruction "A" and "B" teams
3:15-5:30 P.M.—Visitation by "A" and "B" teams
7:30 P.M.—Evangelistic Service

Monday through Friday, November 6-10
6:00 P.M.—Visitation Instruction Supper "A" and "B" teams
7:15 P.M.—Visitation Evangelism
"A" team Monday, Wednesday and Friday
"B" team Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
7:30 P.M.—Evangelistic Service
9:00 P.M.—Reports and Sharing

The spirit of this Area is such that we believe that every pastor and lay leader will secure the commitment of their church to cooperate in this "Ten Days for God."

Between 800 and 1,000 guest pastors from outside the Area east of the Mississippi will be invited to participate. Each of these guest pastors will either preach or direct visitation and some will do both.

Here will be one of the greatest demonstrations of Methodist brotherhood ever attempted. No man will know where he is to be assigned or what he is to do until he registers. No host pastor is to know who his guests are to be until registration. This is an adventure in faith for all who participate.

Travel and entertainment expense will be provided.

We believe that **15,000 accessions will be brought into the Church** in this Area.

Thousands of inactives will be reactivated. Permanent evangelistic groups, Fishermen's Clubs, will be established in hundreds of churches. Churches will be revived. Pastors and laymen will have rekindled the compassion of Christ. Hundreds of guest pastors will return with hearts strangely warmed, instructed, and full of the glow.

Through experience comes faith!

Asbury Park, N. J. Press

One of the most successful groups of churches in the Philadelphia Evangelistic Advance was the New Brunswick District School held at Asbury Park, New Jersey. The visiting ministers, who led the pulpit and visitation evangelism, are pictured here with the host pastors. Visitation evangelism was directed by Walter R. Willis, Jacksonville, Texas. A member of the General Board of Evangelism, he is on the front row, fifth from left. The inspirational preacher was Howard P. Powell, pastor of Edenton Street Church, Raleigh, North Carolina. He is third from right, front row.

When districts meet like this, simultaneously with other districts in the same area, they receive additional inspiration. So it will be when the 10 districts of the Syracuse Area meet simultaneously, November 3-12.

How Long Since You Thanked

A Religious-Minded Publication?

A guest editorial by Willard A. Pleuthner, Vice President, Batten, Barton, Durstine & Osborn, Inc., Advertising Agency, New York

YES, how long is it since you took pen or typewriter in hand and dropped a note to an editor or publisher thanking him for running a religious column, article, or story? If you are like the most of us, it has been way too long . . . far too long.

Some of us complain at times because newspapers and magazines run so much that we consider trivial or discouraging material. But usually we do little or nothing to encourage the religious-minded magazines and newspapers who devote valuable space to material about religious news, people, institutions, etc. If ministers would make it a point to write praise-ful letters, or even post cards on this subject, we could easily double the amount of religious material which appears in publications.

For example, we should write the editors of *Time* and *Newsweek* magazines from time to time, thanking them for continuing their fine religious news sections. We should write these magazines when a clergyman is used on the cover. Our letters should have gone out to *Saturday Evening Post, American Legion,* and *This Week* magazine when they ran their recent religious articles and stories.

When a local newspaper runs a daily or weekly prayer or Bible meditation, we should make it a point to show our appreciation at regular intervals. When the paper publishes a religious serial like "The Greatest Story Ever Told" by Fulton Oursler the editor or publisher should get letters from ministers.

We should go even further than that. Our congregations should be told about these religious-minded publications when they publish religious material. We should urge our members to write letters also. Yes, we ministers can double the amount of religious material appearing in national and local publications. This will make our members think of Christ's Way of Life more frequently. Therefore, we cannot afford to remain silent any longer! Remember that for just the stationery and stamps we can add more power of the press to the daily reading of our people. So let's start this influencing and appreciative habit *this week.*

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Willard A. Pleuthner, a Vice President of BBDO, has been a member of Bruce Barton's advertising agency for more than 20 years. He has lectured at colleges, written articles for business and religious publications.

Some ten years ago he started working with bishops and ministers of various denominations to increase church attendance. In connection with his work he has given talks before conventions of clergymen and laymen. In these activities he has adapted successful methods of business to the problem of bringing more people into contact with Christ's Way of Life.

He has recently completed a book, *BUILDING UP YOUR CONGREGATION—Help Through Tested Business Methods,* which will be published by Wilcox & Follett this spring.

That Mr. Pleuthner practices what he preaches about writing to editors and publishers is evidenced by the letters he receives in reply. Here are Samples from *The Saturday Evening Post, Newsweek,* and *The American Legion* magazine.

Dear Mr. Pleuthner:

Thank you so much for your really fine note of January 19. Our surveys show rather conclusively that the readers of the *Post* are genuinely interested in articles on religious topics. I think we have done reasonably well in this field, and of course I am delighted that you agree.

It was good of you to take the time and trouble to write me.

Sincerely,
Ben Hibbs, Editor
The Saturday Evening Post

Dear Mr. Pleuthner:

Thank you for your very nice letter about our survey on Protestantism.

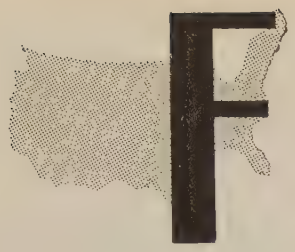
We always appreciate hearing from readers about their reactions to *Newsweek* stories and find your comments especially gratifying.

Sincerely,
Terry Ferrer,
Religion Editor
Newsweek

Dear Mr. Pleuthner:

Your kind letter concerning YOU ARE YOUR BROTHER'S KEEPER is deeply appreciated. Actually, the idea was suggested by a talk made by Mr. Sullivan in Washington several weeks ago, but I found it was difficult to get down on paper the intensity and conviction that he expressed in his speech. However, the fact that you liked the article so much indicates that we didn't lose too much of the spirit, and I am gratified because of it.

Cordially,
Joseph C. Keeley, Editor
The American Legion magazine



From Many Parts of the Nation

Pastors Churches Laymen Report Evangelistic Success

Oklahoma

McALESTER DISTRICT HAS SIMULTANEOUS REVIVALS

EVANGELISM in the McAlester District of the East Oklahoma Conference has maintained a foremost point of emphasis. Early in the Conference year the pastors united in a district-wide visitation program with the director, Dwight R. Hunt, in charge. Then at District Conference the Committee on Evangelism brought the report that we should enter another united effort, and simultaneous revivals were scheduled. January 22-29 was chosen as "Revival Week" and turned out to be a good one.

The series was good and paves the way for the greater simultaneous efforts that are being planned. At present the district shows 274 additions by profession and an equal number by certificate. Wetumka leads the list with 36 by profession, Heavener is second with 35, Seminole follows with 26 and Holdenville with 20. Only one charge reports a blank in this column and we mean to take care of that in some manner for a clear record.

Preparatory to National Week of Visitation and Easter, District Superintendent Joe S. Strother called his preachers together for a clinic in the pattern of a retreat. The sessions were held in a large and comfortable stone building in Robber's Cave State Park, Wilburton, Oklahoma, February 27 and 28.

The retreat was arranged for three panel discussions and a fourth was inserted, at the request of the men, to talk "shop." The first panel was on "My Personal Life" and the chosen speakers talked on the phases of a rich, useful and dedicated life. Panel Two dealt with "My Ministry" and set forth better patterns of the preacher's work. The third session was called "Things That Work" and was full of useful ideas and projects. The men found it all helpful and asked that the retreat become an annual affair. This district is on the march.

Virginia

Three Nights Visiting Gives Small Church 20% More Members

by John L. Kibler, Jr., Pastor

MAGNOLIA CHURCH entered the week of Visitation Evangelism with a membership of 86 active and 17 inactive members. A thorough survey of the community revealed approximately 100 prospects for church membership.

There were many obstacles which had to be overcome before an adequate program of visitation could be carried out. In the first place, there were no facilities at the church to accommodate the visitors for their supper meetings. This was solved when one lady borrowed an extra dining table and had us meet each evening in her home.

Our original plan called for the use of five teams of laymen, but an epidemic of severe colds and flu, along with a few previous commitments, rendered this impossible. We used, instead, three married couples and a fourth team composed of two laymen. None of these had had previous experience in the sort of visiting we were about to do. There was much fear and trembling as we met for our first supper. One of the visitors was really so afraid of failure that she was unable to enjoy her meal. She and her husband brought in the only commitment that first night.

The second night found the pastor in bed under doctor's orders. He wrote out the instructions for that evening and sent them to the meeting to be read by one of the group to the others. Later that evening they secured nine commitments from the twenty prospects interviewed.

The third evening, out of 24 prospects interviewed, 10 commitments were secured, seven in one family. In the three evenings 64 prospects had been interviewed and 20 commitments had been made. This means that the membership of this church will be increased by 20% as a result of the work of three evenings. There were seven others who requested that the pastor call, and it is to be hoped that some of these will make their commitments to Christ.

As one result of this week, the whole group was anxious to continue to visit for Christ and His Church one night a month. Others of the group have decided that they will cultivate the art of public prayer.

In a rural community such as the one in which we worked, the prospects were sometimes rather scattered and time was lost when no one was found at home, but all of us were convinced that visitation evangelism will work, even in the small rural church, when it is given a chance.

An additional commitment has raised the total to 21—11 first commitments and 10 transfers.

I might add that, without any more supper meetings or periods of instruction, our visitors have determined to see the remainder of our prospects before we observe Membership Sunday.

Missouri

Grace Church, Springfield, Missouri, gave a turkey dinner to its new members as part of its assimilation program.

Grace Church, Springfield Wins 156 New Members

VISITATION Evangelism Week at Grace Church, Springfield, Missouri, resulted in 25 teams winning 156 persons to Christ. In the six visitation periods, beginning Sunday afternoon and closing Friday night, 320 prospects were interviewed. New members were received on several Sundays, 105 of them joining at one time. Twenty-eight of the commitments were enrolled in a training class and joined on Palm Sunday.

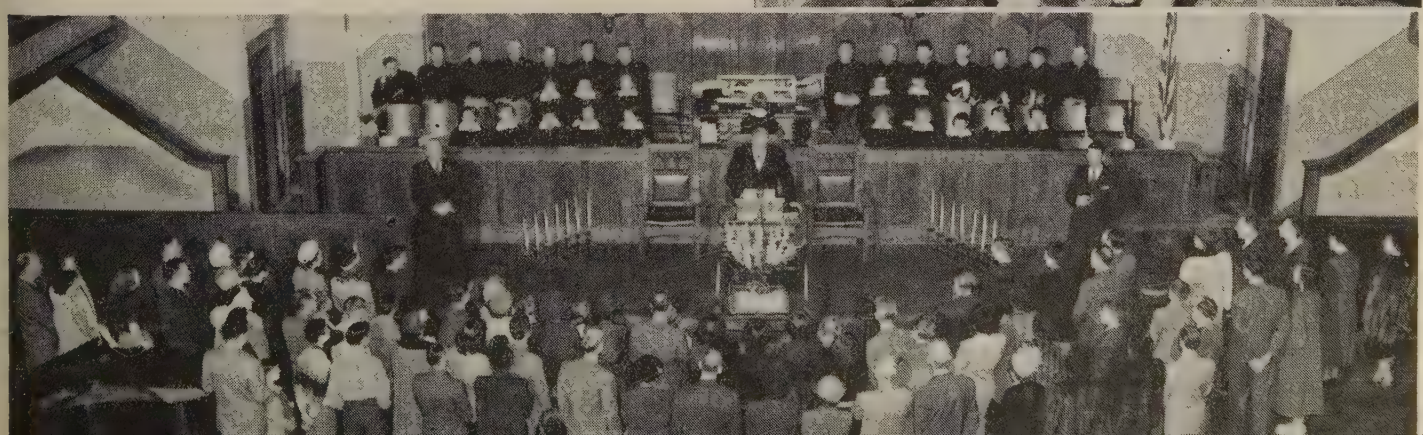
Back of these figures was a good deal of preparation carried on under the direction of D. Russell Lytle, associate minister of the church and District Director of Evangelism. He was one of hundreds of visiting ministers attending the Philadelphia Evangelistic Advance where experience and training was given to hundreds of visiting pastors from all over the nation. Now, in addition to leading Grace Church in Visitation Evangelism, he is training other pastors of the District.

When the 105 new members were received on one Sunday morning no sermon was used. The pastor, J. M. Shockley, spoke about ten minutes welcoming the new members into the world-wide Methodist Fellowship and then Russell Lytle introduced each couple or family to the congregation. This took about 30 minutes. Then, during the closing hymn, the visitation workers came to the altar and stood beside the members they had won.

Outstanding in assimilating this large group of new members was the banquet given on the following Tuesday night. The big turkey dinner, including all the trimmings, was a gift from the church. The program was varied, with dinner music, group singing, a welcome by the pastor, and five brief talks by the chairmen of the principal boards of the church. Table games for all age groups concluded the program. The husband of one of the new families expressed his appreciation, "This has been a wonderful evening. We feel at home, now, and we certainly know you and the members of the church better."

Laymen of Springfield Church win this family to Christ and Church Membership. Left to right are Don Clame, a professor, Billy and Robert Compton who joined on confession of faith, Mrs. Zola Compton, who joined by transfer, and Paul Brewester, salesman for a local hardware company.

Below, 105 persons join the church on one Sunday morning. MORE NEWS OF EVANGELISTIC SUCCESS APPEARS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.



West Virginia

Church Has 38% Increase

Visitation teams, Wesley Church, Charleston, West Virginia

WESLEY METHODIST Church, Charleston, W. Va., has received 109 new members since the West Virginia Annual Conference met last October, and it was almost solely through visitation evangelism that it was accomplished. This is a 38 per cent increase in the membership of this Church!

It happened this way: Under the direction of Dr. Frank L. Shaffer, Director of the Pension Fund, West Virginia Conference, and B. Elmo Kelley, pastor, a survey of our immediate community was made by the Committee on Membership and Evangelism and the Committee on Visitation, working jointly. All cards not pertaining to our responsibility were deleted. Then three evenings were devoted to visitation, following a dinner in the Church, and an inspirational and instructional message to the teams by Dr. Shaffer, who also used recordings on visitation evangelism. Twelve to fourteen teams of consecrated men and women went out nightly at 7:00 P.M., returning to the church at 9:00 P.M. to report this work. Hundreds of homes were visited and definite commitments secured, where possible, but in every case, a brief prayer and invitation to the revival, which was to begin the following Sunday.

The first service of the revival, January 8th, 16 members were received into the Church. The following two weeks, with the inspired preaching of Dr. Shaffer and the pastor directing the singing, the entire complexion of this church was changed. The invitation was extended about the second day of the revival, and each evening, including Saturday, and the three Sunday mornings, souls were kneeling at a Methodist altar of prayer, with the possible exception of about three services. Entire families, strong men, women, youth, and a few juniors—all came. Great waves of spiritual power filled the place. But note: Almost without exception, every person who came to the altar had been visited in the home by the laymen and preachers. The lay people of Wesley Church did a marvelous job in their visitation and attendance. The church was filled each night,

B. E. Kelley, left, pastor, and Frank L. Shaffer, director of the visitation evangelism and the revival.

Below, a large group of the new members which has given Wesley Church a 38 per cent increase in membership this year.

and the choir of 25 to 40 sang at each service.

The assimilation service followed on Wednesday evening after the revival closed, putting all these new people to work. There were 175 present; 27 men were added to the Official Board; the Youth president was there to assign new people to committees; president of the WSCS reorganized her Circles to include the fine women; president of the Methodist Men made a strong appeal to the men; the Church School Superintendent introduced his Division Superintendents, who presented their teachers, inviting new persons to proper classes.

The Pastor's Class was started immediately for youth and children. A *Discipline* was presented to each new man on the Board. A thorough campaign is now on for *The Christian Advocate,* with "Minute Men" (laymen) speaking a minute at each service for the *Advocate.* We realize not only how important it is to FIND THEM and WIN THEM, but how important it is to ASSIMILATE them. At the moment we are remodeling our balcony to care for the overflow attendance from the filled Sanctuary. Church-school attendance has jumped to 335, higher than former "banner goals."

It was the hardest work we ever did. There are no "short-cuts" in visitation evangelism. But if planned well and worked hard, any Methodist Church can repeat what happened at Wesley!

Arizo

Tucson Church Wins 32

Our church is not very large—we have a membership of 138—but I know that you will want to rejoice with us about the success of our visitation campaign. In two nights 16 teams visited in the south part of Tucson and received 32 new members. Of these new members 24 of them will be received on confession of faith. Of the eight transfers, six are from The Methodist Church and two from the Presbyterian Church.

One thing sure we are not going to stop visiting. All the visitors told the preacher, "Let us do this again and soon." Let me take this opportunity to thank SHEPHERDS for the help they have given the Worship and Evangelism Committee. Every member of this committee receives SHEPHERDS and reads it.

—Charles E. Hill, Tucson, Arizona

The ministers who participated in the Indianapolis Visitation Evangelism program are pictured in the sanctuary of Roberts Park Methodist Church. As reported in the May *Shepherds,* this campaign added 2,563 new members to The Methodist Church in four days. Of this number 1,436 made their first commitment.

Dawson Bryan, director of Personal and Visitation Evangelism for the General Board of Evangelism, said it was the most wholehearted layman's effort he has yet witnessed. A total of 1,437 laymen made 6,936 interviews.

Ministers who participated in the visitation were from the Indianapolis district, a portion of the adjoining Greencastle District, and selected representatives from the other districts in Indiana. Weeks of preparation were spent in laying the foundation for this campaign through subdistrict groups under the direction of the District Secretary of Evangelism.

CHURCH FAMILY NIGHT

USES "The Methodist Primer"

By Ennis B. Hill, Pastor

Munger Place Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas

We have from time to time a series of family night programs, one during the Lenten season for six weeks, one in the early summer, and one in the fall. These programs offer the pastor a teaching opportunity not otherwise provided in our church work.

The pattern followed each night is simple. We have a covered dish supper, a brief sing, and then the lecture or instruction period given by the pastor. Incidentally, during this instruction period the young children are taken into another room for movies, stories, etc.

One of these series was given over to The History and Doctrines of the Methodist Church. Obviously such a wide field as that could not be exhaustively covered in six nights, but *The Methodist Primer* because of its conciseness was a ready-made guide for our study. It therefore was the background of our series.

During the next several months, when we will be centering our attention on The Advance, we plan to use these family night programs to give special attention to the subjects for study such as Our Faith, etc.

THE METHODIST PRIMER

By Bishop Selecman

25c; 25 or more, 20c each

A PROTESTANT PRIMER

By Clarence Seidenspinner

25c each; 12 for $3.00

ORDER FROM TIDINGS

Madisonville's Modern Miracles

by J. Lester McGee

THEY are still talking about it in and around Clay, Dawson Springs, Earlington, Hanson, Nortonville, Onton, Providence, Sebree, Slaughters, and Madisonville! And not only are they talking. They are thanking the Lord for having re-discovered the technique Jesus used in winning men to God.

These ten churches, representing a cross-section of every size and type of church in the Conference, and in an area long known for its traditional emphasis upon "revival meeting evangelism," agreed to be the "guinea pig" for the cause of Visitation Evangelism in the Louisville Conference. A School of Visitation Evangelism was held in Madisonville from Monday through Thursday, February 13-16. This was the first in a series of schools planned by the Conference Board of Evangelism for the seven districts of the Louisville Conference.

The district secretaries of evangelism, the Conference Secretary of Evangelism, and the writer, who had attended and participated in the Philadelphia Area Evangelistic Advance, assisted as guest directors in the cooperating churches.

The pastors and visiting ministers met in Madisonville during the day for instructions and study, using the Turn Over charts prepared by the General Board of Evangelism. Instruction periods for the laymen were held in the local churches each evening, followed by visitation in the homes of the unchurched.

From the first night, despite the handicaps of much hard rain and the usual community basketball fever, the enthusiasm mounted until on the last night many had to restrain themselves from shouting as the results came pouring in. Many were the tears shed for sheer joy! Church members not taking part in the visiting gathered in each church to hear the instructions and remained until the visitors returned with accounts of victory. In each of the ten churches a Fisherman's Club was organized to continue the visitation the next week and at least one night a month thereafter.

The Madisonville radio station made free time available each day for preaching services and reports of the results. By Wednesday word spread over the entire area that something unusual was happening. Every type of conversion was reported, and all kinds and ages of people made commitments to Christ and the Church. A total of 366 visits were made, resulting in 54 transfers of church membership, and 113 first commitments for a total of 167 and an average of 45 per cent. Approximately 100 other persons not having made commitments were considered excellent prospects to be called on in definite follow-up work by the pastors and their people. Considerable stress was made upon conservation and assimilation for all newly won persons.

Much credit for the success of the venture is due the district superintendent, George S. Wood, the pastors, and the Woman's Societies of Christian Service for the thorough surveys preceding the campaign, the detailed planning, the fervent praying, and the advance publicity.

For lack of space I shall mention only three victories, omitting where and by whom:

1 In one community the basketball game had practically all the prospects one evening. The pastor and his helper decided to try one call, however. The prospects were a man and wife. Just as the team drove up they saw the man leaving with a bag. They called to him and he stopped. Sensing that he was impatient to be on his way, the pastor told him they had come from the church for a visit but would return another time at his convenience. In due respect he turned back and invited them in. There they abruptly came upon the wife in tears. The pastor and his associate put the couple at ease by offering to help.

They had decided to dissolve their marriage, and the husband had hastily gathered a few clothes and was leaving when the visitors drove up. Quite skillfully and with tender persuasion the visitors pointed out the only way to save their home and happiness. The Holy Spirit, as always, did His work. In a few minutes the four of them were kneeling in prayer, the pastor having suggested tactfully that the husband and wife join hands for the prayer.

Of course, you know the glorious result! Both confessed their wrongs and accepted Christ as Saviour! They pledged their attendance at church the next Sunday to seek membership! The home was saved, and for the first time in months happiness and peace reigned over that household!

2 In another community a man of considerable years, and long known for his wickedness, was wonderfully converted and came with his family to the church the next night to bow at the altar and pledge the remainder of his life to the high and noble way. So soundly and thoroughly changed was he that he wanted to be received into the church on the spot. The pastor, however, acting with wisdom, persuaded him to wait until Membership Sunday, thus allowing time for some training and cultivation.

3 One morning another pastor and his visiting director were leaving for the sessions at Madisonville. They picked up a man waiting for the bus and let him ride. Upon questioning him they discovered that he and his family had just moved to town. His wife was a Methodist and a member elsewhere. He was not a Christian. Before reaching Madisonville he confessed his sins to Christ and committed his life to God. He immediately called his wife and told her the good news, and she promised to transfer her membership and join the church with him in their new community home. THAT WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST PROFITABLE RIDE OF HIS LIFE!

In fact, all who were a part of the modern miracle of Madisonville had one of the most gainful and exhilarating rides of a lifetime!

Jackson, Mississippi, District Visitation Week

Pastors of the Jackson, Mississippi, District meet to discuss visitation evangelism plans during the campaign held simultaneously with the Week of Dedication. A total of 423 commitments were obtained. Bishop Marvin Franklin is seated, third from left; District Superintendent B. M. Hunt is reading the Advance folder. The District Secretary of Evangelism, Harold Hetrick, is seated at the extreme right and W. B. Selah, pastor, Galloway Memorial Church in Jackson is seated, third from right. The picture was taken in that church.

One of the suppers for lay visitors is shown here at Capital Street Church where Henry M. Bullock is pastor.

Roy Lane, second from right, and a layman, extreme left, win this family during the visitation evangelism campaign. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis, were received by transfer of church letter and their three children joined on confession of faith. Brother Lane is pastor of Grace Church.

Of the 423 commitments received during the week, 194 were on confession of faith.

James D. Wroten, third from right, pastor of the newly organized Broadmeadow Church, meets with the board of stewards and District Superintendent Hunt, extreme left. The pastor is also professor of religion at Millsaps College.

Chattanooga Churchmen Visit for Christ

by Jim Callaway, in the Chattanooga *News—Free Press*

This is the account of a newspaper reporter who said, "Before I begin calling, I wish to make my commitment, or rather I am going to transfer my membership from my home town to the Presbyterian Church here in Chattanooga."

TWO by Two, several hundred Chattanoogans went out into streets and homes of the city last night to urge their fellow men to accept Jesus Christ and become a member of His church.

It wasn't easy. This writer knows, because he was part—a very minor half—of one of the teams.

But this the writer knows: Regardless of whether those who went were successful, today they felt better for the work they had done.

We were part of the personal evangelism home visiting section of the United Evangelistic Campaign now being conducted by 140 churches in Chattanooga.

The exact number of workers last night is not known. This morning 40 churches reported 645 workers. They obtained a total of 126 first commitments to Christ and 132 transfers of church letters.

Many Others

Uncounted others also worked last night, though their churches failed to report the result of their labors.

Last night the visitors had good weather. Today's skies forecast trouble for workers tonight, but Dr. Dawson C. Bryan, who is directing the personal evangelism program, makes light of the weather.

One story was told last night about one occasion on which the weather actually was a help. "One night it was pouring rain," the story went. "Only a handful of workers showed up at the church to make visits—but we went despite the weather. With thunder roaring and lightning flashing we called at one home, but met with no response from the occupants who very politely listened to us, so we went on.

"Several weeks later the couple showed up in church and joined. When they did so they told about their conversion. They said they did not remember who called that rainy night, but they thought if two perfect strangers were interested enough in them to come out on a night like that, they should be more interested in themselves. It led them to Christ."

Don't Give Up

"Just because it's a bad night, don't give up," Dr. Bryan pleaded. "More people stay home on bad nights—and you have a wonderful opportunity."

Pastors assemble each morning for reports and further instruction on the campaign, and then at night at a supper they pass on the information to their workers. Specific methods of evangelism and contacting people are given and presented at these dinners. Often the workers gather before the dinner to discuss events of the night before.

After supper we workers paired off for our visits. I was lucky. My partner was an old hand at the job of personal visitation—and I think he knew personally, or knew of, practically everyone we were to go see.

No Results

Our first knock brought no results. When the wife appeared at the door she informed us her husband was not at home, so plans were made for a visit tonight.

The next house was different. We were invited in, made comfortable, and introduced all round the family. It was almost a matter of form. Almost—but not quite.

The family heads readily agreed to transfer their memberships from an out-of-town church to one here. And their two youngsters signified they had accepted Christ as their Saviour and were ready to unite with the church.

There we had our two commitments of the night, and two of the six transfers we got.

Our next visit could be termed a failure—yet it wasn't. We did not get a commitment—one wasn't needed. We didn't get a transfer. Our host was not a member of a church, and he didn't want to join one. He could see no reason to do so. All of his life he had been identified with Christian activities, and professed Christ, and lived a Christian life but he didn't want to join a church, and didn't.

New Family

Finally we called on a family relatively new in town. That was another easy one. My partner knew the people, and they readily gave their consent to a transfer for their church letters—all but the father. He wasn't home.

We felt we had a successful tour of duty. But it brought to mind the warning words of Dr. Bryan.

"Don't ever get to the place where you expect success every time you go out. You will be fooled.

"On the other hand," he added in a talk earlier in the evening, "don't get discouraged. You never know when you will win someone. People can be won only when you go after them. When you go, go with one idea, that you will get a commitment or an exchange of letter."

Urging church members to transfer their letters when they move, the leader said, "When they tell you they don't know how long they will be here, you have a perfect answer. Who does?"

Approximately 1,600 persons were won in this interdenominational campaign, 536 of them on confession of faith. Methodists gained 702 new members, including 354 first commitments.

The Slate Belt Evangelistic Advance (Pennsylvania)

The Protestant churches, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Evangelical United Brethren, United Evangelical, Reformed, Episcopalian, and The Salvation Army, of the Slate Belt united in a three weeks' evangelistic endeavor. The first week was visitation, going out two-by-two into the homes of the community. This week was under the direction of O. A. Hyden, District Superintendent of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Willard Kraty of Catasaqua. Following the week of visitation, preaching services were held for one week in the Pen Argyl Methodist Church, Pen Argyl, and one week in the U. E. Church in Bangor, Pennsylvania, with C. Lloyd Daugherty, from the Board of Evangelism of The Methodist Church, preaching each evening.

The members of the churches accepted the challenge very seriously, 125 men and women going out during the week of visitation, which was held from January 29 to February 3. Many commitments to Christ and His Church were obtained from both members and non-members of the churches. They were as follows: 766 families visited, 134 first decisions, 76 transfers, 475 reconsecrations, making the final total 685. Pastors have testified to the great good that has come from these meetings. The Slate Belt will never be the same. Our slogan for the campaign was "Finding Yourself Through Faith."

—*C. E. Wonderley*, Pastor, Zion Methodist Church, Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania

Businessman Holds Revival

When laymen start holding revivals, the church is going forward in evangelism. A St. Louis businessman, Tom W. Spradling, held one recently at Piggot, Arkansas. About it, he says, "It was a wonderful experience. We had about twenty-five commitments, some for the Methodist, some for the Baptist and some for the Presbyterian, but we did get some very, very rich experiences and I feel it was very much a success. God and I were successful in winning one of the town's worst men and if I never have done anything else, I will be paid with a lifetime of joy by winning this soul. . . .

"I have been out this week working with some of the churches in Southern Missouri, trying our best to put this Conference over with a lot of incoming people to Christ and His Church during this year."

(A picture of Mr. Spradling and his wife appeared in November SHEPHERDS.)

Fort Smith District Wins 585!

Under the leadership of Cecil R. Culver, district superintendent, and Roy I. Bigley, Conference Secretary of Evangelism, 27 charges of the Fort Smith District (Arkansas) cooperated in an evangelistic campaign during the week of March 12-16.

There were 52 visiting ministers assigned to preach and direct visitation evangelism in these 27 cooperating charges. A visiting minister preached each evening in a charge from Sunday through Thursday, while another minister instructed the lay visitation evangelism workers. An average of 252 workers visited each evening, Monday through Thursday, and they won a combined total of 386 first commitments and 199 transfers for Christ and His church.

Each weekday morning at 11:00 o'clock, Allen D. Stewart, the pastor at Conway, Arkansas, preached to all of the ministers at St. Paul's Church, Fort Smith.

American Christian Ashrams

with E. Stanley Jones

A series of five Ashrams will be held this summer by the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches. The Department has sponsored these Ashrams annually for the past 10 years. This year, they will be held as follows—

July 10-20—Bridgewater College, Bridgewater, Virginia

July 22-29—Northern Baptist Assembly Grounds, Green Lake, Wisconsin

July 31-August 7—Keuka College, Keuka Park, New York

August 9-16—Mt. Wesley Encampment, Kerrville, Texas

August 18-28—Camp Sierra, California (Near Fresno)

Who may attend? Anyone may attend. All ages are invited. Families are encouraged to come. There is something in every Ashram for everyone. A daily vacation Bible school is provided for children. There is something special provided in the program for youth. Fathers and mothers will find help and inspiration. In fact, there is no finer way to spend a vacation than at an Ashram. One finds rest, information, inspiration and fellowship in them.

There is a faculty of five or six well-known men and women provided in each Ashram. E. Stanley Jones is the only one of the faculty members who will be present in every Ashram. He is giving a series of studies this summer on the parables of Jesus during one of the two hours he has on the daily program in each Ashram.

All who attend *must* first make application. Write for an application blank, rates for room and meals and the program, to:

Department of Evangelism
Federal Council of Churches
297 Fourth Avenue
New York 10, N. Y.

50 New Members at Springhill, Louisiana

Visitation Evangelism and Pulpit Evangelism joined hands recently at Springhill, Louisiana, to produce a harvest of 50 new members for the church there. More than 20 laymen and the pastor visited prospective members the week of February 20-24, during which time 41 persons signed their commitment cards. During the revival meeting, held concurrently with the Week of Dedication, March 5-12, 34 members were received into membership at the altar of the church, including 13 by baptism. The others were received on the remaining Sundays of the Lenten season.

R. R. Branton, pastor of the Trinity Methodist Church in Ruston, was the visiting preacher for the revival, and W. D. Boodie is the pastor of the Springhill Church.

This experience compares favorably with a similar visitation evangelism and mass evangelism combination at the same time last year in this church. At that time 63 members were received.

The group received into the Willow Grove church on one Sunday morning after the Philadelphia Advance. Desmond Heyligir is the pastor.

What the
Philadelphia Evangelistic Advance
meant to a
Local Church

THE great Evangelistic Advance in the Philadelphia Area has had glorious results in the local churches as evidenced in Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, when 56 were received into the membership one Sunday morning. It was a thrilling and inspiring experience to see this large group at the altar confessing their faith in Christ and uniting with the church.

Twenty-eight personal workers visited in the homes during this evangelistic advance and they were so inspired and blessed in the winning of souls that they all desire to continue this personal work. Visitation evangelism is now a permanent part of this local church's program. The picture shows that nearly all of this group of 56 were adults, most of them husbands and wives. This means the establishing of Christian homes and the leading of children into the Kingdom. There is no more important work for the church than this.

Much credit is due the two leaders assigned to our church, Ralph Taylor of Albemarle, N. C., as preacher and L. R. Tagg of Paxton, Illinois, director of visitation. Under their splendid leadership the success of this effort was attained.

During the eight months of this Conference year 101 have been received already into the membership of this church and it is expected that another 50 will be won in the remaining four months. This will mean an increase of about 30 per cent in one year. The whole life of the church has been spiritually revitalized. In joy and confidence we face the future, certain of more wonderful achievements.

Believing that evangelism does not end with the winning and receiving of people into the membership but involves a responsibility to nurture and strengthen each Christian life, we have selected 30 men or group leaders and given them the task of actively relating every member to the life of the church and Kingdom. These group leaders have already visited every home in the membership and urged everyone to attend the worship service regularly. They will continue a constant personal supervision and guidance in the entire membership. Already the church is crowded every Sunday and a new building is imperative. A real evangelistic passion and program always results in a happy and successful church.

Honor Roll — "1 for 14"

Hundreds of churches throughout Methodism have achieved the "1 for 14" evangelistic goal for 1950. With the great ingathering of members on Easter, the number may now be in the thousands. Published here are the names of those churches which reached the goal before Easter and reported it to SHEPHERDS in response to the request in the March issue.

Church or Charge	Pastor	Conference
Franksville, Wisconsin	J. D. Klein	Wisconsin
Springhill, Louisiana	W. D. Boddie	Louisiana (S. C.)
Nolanville-Thrall Charge	Coy Ellis	Central Texas
Rogers Charge, Texas	George Matthews	Central Texas
Magnolia (Drivers-Crittenden)	John L. Kibler, Jr.	Virginia
Bolivar, N. Y.	Homer E. Cole	Genesee
Redfield, Kansas	Austin McGhee	Kansas
Fenton, Michigan	Ralph D. Hooper	Detroit
Portage, Wisconsin	Deane W. Irish	West Wisconsin
Brookfield, Illinois	Vance D. Rogers	Rock River
Shaw Mem., Seattle, Wash.	Ralph Butler	Pacific Northwest
Vienna-Oakton Charge, Va.	C. L. Stillwell	Virginia
Second Church, Okla. City	A. W. Hallmark	West Oklahoma
Hingham, Mass.	Joseph M. Harrell	New England Southern
Wesley Church, Bath, Me.	C. Clifford Sargent	Maine
Lumberville, Penna.	Albert W. Cliffe (layman)	Philadelphia
Parsons, Tenn.	W. L. Underwood	Memphis

"None of Us Dreamed..."

The thrilling story of Providence Church in the Philadelphia Evangelistic Advance

By Harold C. Koch

IT was with some trepidation that the Official Board of Providence Methodist Church, Allegheny Avenue at Front Street, Philadelphia, decided in May of 1949 to participate in the proposed Visitation Evangelism Project for the Philadelphia Evangelistic Advance the week of November 27 to December 4. We all felt we ought to participate but many were uncertain that they could do this kind of church work. None of us dreamed that through us 73 persons would respond to the invitation to make their decision to profess Christ and become a part of His Church. Of these, 67 were received into full membership. The other six will undoubtedly be received upon some appropriate occasion.

November seemed far away, but the pastor began to work at compiling the prospect lists. Providence is located in a busy industrial area in a densely populated section of Philadelphia. No doubt there are many hundreds of unchurched and unprofessed people within a half dozen city blocks in any direction. A good number of churches, Methodist and otherwise, are scattered every few blocks throughout the area. We were sure there were plenty of prospects if they could be found and contacted. Actually we did not search for prospects indiscriminately. Every name listed by the pastor was taken from his files of members' families and his constituency who regarded Providence as their church preference. Every name listed by the pastor had been visited at least once by him during the past two years and some of them many times. Most of them were folks for whom some definite pastoral service had been rendered. Many of them were folks who ought to have been won to the church in the past. About one-third of those invited responded to the call. Only one in 275 prospects visited showed a bit of irritation, and I am convinced that this was largely bluff to cover embarrassment. Some who had been associated with the Sunday school for some years did not actually realize that they had a personal commitment to make. They readily responded when they understood that Christ is a personal Lord and Saviour and that their relation is not merely to a Sunday school or church.

Of the 67 received, only eight actually came by transfer from other churches. In addition to these there were 13 others who had once been members of other churches but who had long since been away from their former affiliation. Twenty-one were young people between the ages of 12 and 21 who have grown up in our Sunday school.

The visitors were selected and invited to help by the pastor. The training film on visitation, "Bringing Christ to the Home," was shown to as many as could be present shortly before the work began. We gathered for a supper meeting the first night, but family and work conditions made it too inconvenient in our case. We met for a teaching session with the visitation chart before calling and made reports after church service each night. It was not contagion that won our large group. Most of those who responded did not know that the others were doing so. The first two nights the response was small and we did not announce the totals at our service. Some principles were upset. Most were won by women although the men's teams did very well. I was amazed several times when a women's team came back with 80 or 100 per cent commitments from prospects I thought were very difficult. Others whom I felt sure would respond favorably put their decision off. The young people had two teams and helped with young people's visitation.

The pastor counseled with each committed person before he was received and each was given information about the Communion, membership privileges and duties, the organization and program of The Methodist Church, and also information about our local and benevolent budgets and their relation to them through the regular giving program of the church. Every effort was made to relate each one to not only the worship services but to the organizational activities of our church. Quite a few were so related already.

William Durrett, pastor of Andrew Chapel, Methodist, Baltimore, Maryland, was our guest preacher, and David W. Skeen, pastor of Orchard Grove Community Methodist Church, East Liverpool, Ohio, was our visitation director. To these two ministers, whose fine evangelical messages, enthusiastic spirit and encouraging direction led us on the way, must be given a considerable share of credit for the gratifying results of our Visitation Evangelism Campaign.

RESULTS: Our hearts were lifted . . . our membership increased 18 per cent . . . and we had new assurance that the Lord goes with those who go out to win folks to His Kingdom.

42 Commitments at Rouseville

While in a two weeks' revival service, the visiting pastor-evangelist, James G. Cousins of New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, led the visitation instruction the second week at Rouseville, Pennsylvania (David M. Hasbrouck, pastor). The pastor testifies:

"During the second week of the meetings, Brother Cousins instructed five teams of laymen who in three nights made 88 calls and returned with 30 commitments on confession of faith and 12 transfers.

"On Tuesday night, out of 26 persons visited, they returned with 11 confessions of faith and 9 transfers. The visitation has continued since the meetings closed with more commitments each week."

The Light of the World

A New Book by Greville Cook

This new Life of Christ by an English minister, who spent seven years writing it, is different. It is delightful. It is an inspired personal portrait of the Master.

Steeped in a thorough knowledge of every detail concerning Christ that is listed in the Four Gospels, and familiar with the multitudinous books on the life of Jesus, on everything He said and did, Greville Cooke writes with imagination and with sanctified insight. "I love Him," he writes, "and He will forgive the wrong lines in my poetry." We may trust such an author, and in reading this fascinating book, one wonders what the wrong lines might be.

The Light of the World arranges the Life of Christ as a drama in a prologue in five acts—the greatest drama ever staged, colossal and sublime. It is told in the manner of a novel, with a novelist's glowing presentation of character, setting, atmosphere, conflict. It avoids dogma to insist on Love, because this is what Christ did. The style reveals the musician's instinct for the cadence of words. The whole work discloses the heart and sensitivity of a poet.

C. Oscar Johnson, President of the Baptist World Alliance, writes: "It lives, every page of it. It is so thrilling one cannot stop reading. Stimulating, encouraging, vivid."

Leslie D. Weatherhead, minister of the City Temple, London, writes: "This is different. The author knows Jesus Christ at first hand. That is obvious. He has added to much study and thought a spiritual insight so rare and mystical it could be born only of a devotional life of the very finest quality. I love the book, although I don't agree with every interpretation of it. . . . I welcome the book with all my heart and prophesy for it an immense influence on men's minds and hearts."

Published by Bobbs-Merrill, the book contains 470 pages, sells for $3.95, and is available from your Publishing House.

"These My Brethren"

Fifteen teachers in Southern colleges visited 1,542 Negro families and 570 Negro churches in the rural South. What they found is described and interpreted by Ralph A. Felton, well-known sociologist at Methodism's Drew Seminary. The report is called, *These My Brethren.*

The thirteen chapters deal with the type of homes in which Negroes live, their farms and their churches. They also describe the Negro pastors, their education, the type of church services they conduct and the way they raise their money. Signs of progress are given for the future.

A sentence from the conclusion is especially significant. "The fact that only nine per cent of the adults among the 7,486 persons visited were not members of some church shows the great opportunity the church has as an institution in building the rural South."

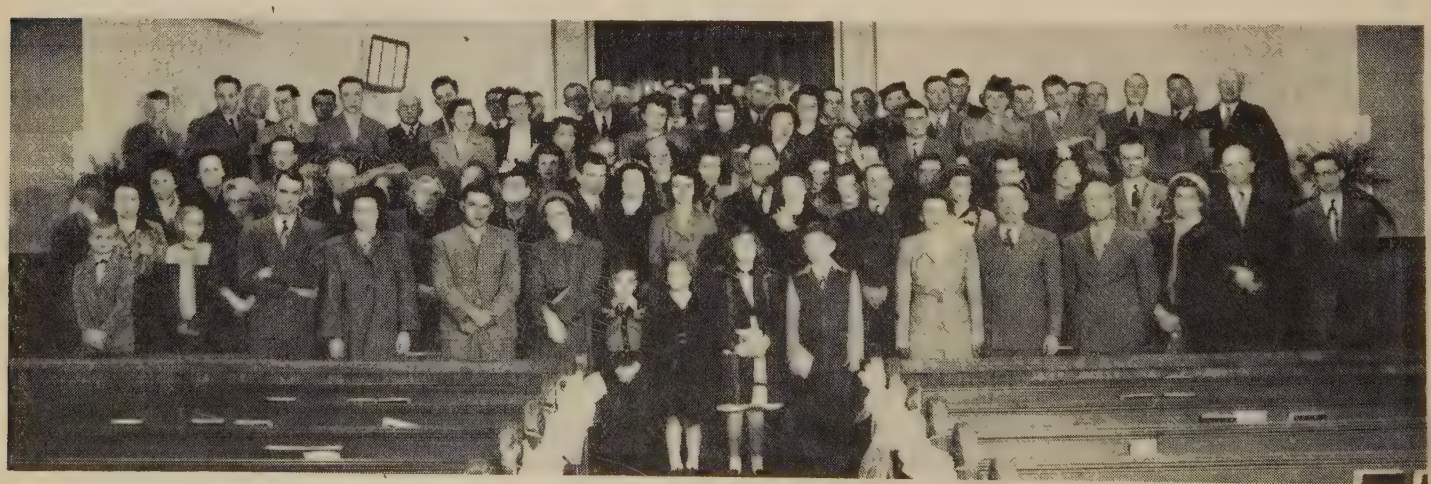
This report may be obtained from the Rural Church Department, Drew Seminary, Madison, New Jersey, 40 cents per copy, 3 copies for $1. Do *not* write to TIDINGS for this.

MINISTERIAL STUDENT RETREAT IN MISSISSIPPI

Over 50 Methodist ministerial students from various colleges throughout the state attended a Mississippi Methodist Ministerial Student Retreat at Highland Church in Meridian, Mississippi, on the week-end of March 3-5. The retreat attracted students from Millsaps College, University of Mississippi, Mississippi State, and Mississippi Southern.

The principle speakers were Harry Denman, Executive Secretary of the General Board of Evangelism, and James W. May, Field Director of Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

Originating the idea for the retreat and directing its program was Robert L. Katzes, pastor of Highland Church. A senior ministerial student at Millsaps, Katzes conceived of the retreat as a means of inspiring and instructing young men who are going into the ministry during the first phase of their work.



Here is the "Palm Sunday New Membership Class" of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Monroe, Michigan, and some of the visitors who helped win them. This is the larger portion of the 100 new members received in a recent "Friendly Visitation Program." Harry T. Howard, pastor and district secretary of evangelism, reports that a picture of a similar group in *Shepherds* magazine inspired his group to reach its goal.

You'll Find a

"World of Help"

in TIDINGS materials

- To raise the spiritual level of your members
- To make your inactive members active

LEAFLETS

For Pentecost

No. copies — *Amount*

_____ **Power from on High for You** _____
By Mack B. Stokes $2.00 per 100

_____ **Toward a Victorious Life** _____
By Bishop Ralph S. Cushman $2.00 per 100

_____ **Day by Day With God** _____
By C. Stanley Lowell $1.00 per 100

Other Leaflets—Keep a Supply on Hand

_____ **Baptized Today** 5¢ each _____
for parents of baptized infants
12 for 50¢; 25 for $1.00

_____ **Overcoming Sorrow** 3¢ each _____
By Bishop Costen J. Harrell

_____ **Be a Member Where You Are** _____
Helpful for getting transfers $2.00 per 100

_____ **God and the Farmer** _____
By James S. Chubb $1.50 per 100

_____ **Who Are You?** $2.00 per 100 _____
By W. E. Sangster (Members of TIDINGS Tract-of-the-Month Club receive this without ordering it.)

CARDS

"Tools to Work With"

_____ **Prayer Circle Cards** $2.00 per 100 _____

_____ **Prospect and Assignment Cards** 50¢ per 100 _____

_____ **Attendance and Registration Cards** _____
(for visitors) 50¢ per 100

_____ **Record of Commitment Cards** 50¢ per 100 _____

OTHER ITEMS

_____ ..... _____

_____ ..... _____

_____ ..... _____

BOOKS

For New Members

No. copies — *Amount*

_____ **The Methodist Primer** 25¢ each _____
25 or more 20¢ each

_____ **The Beliefs of a Methodist Christian.** 35¢ each, 12 or more 25¢ each _____
96-page book by Clinton M. Cherry

For All Members

_____ **The Gospel in Homespun** 15¢ each _____
By Bishop Costen J. Harrell

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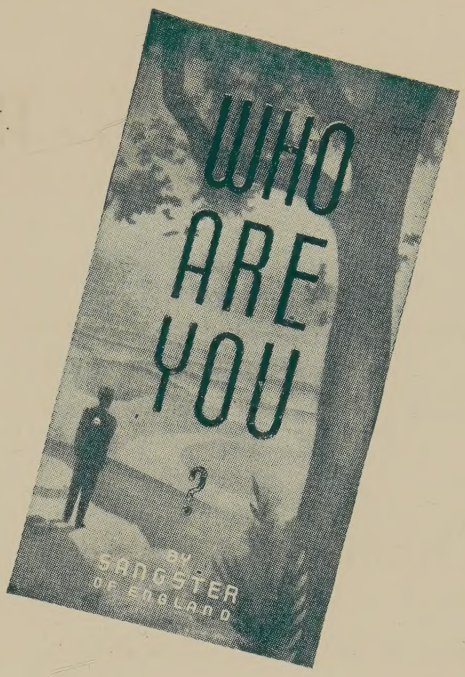

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